

4 1926 2657.2 86

33650

GOVERNMENT POLITICAL

Subject: Foreign Relations

(a) Status of Bolivia-Argentina Foreign Relations

Bolivia

SEP 1 1926

On July 8, 1923 a treaty was signed at La Paz, Bolivia by the Argentine Minister at La Paz and the Bolivian Minister of Foreign Relations settling the question of limits between Bolivia and Argentina (See Report #3550).

This treaty was submitted to the Argentine Congress Nov. 23, 1925 at an extraordinary session as one of the treaties to be ratified at that session. (See Report #3550).

This treaty has never been ratified by the legislatures of either country. It has not been acted upon by the Argentine Senate on account of the present military tactics of both houses of Congress. The Bolivian Congress is waiting to see what will be the final action of the Argentine Senate on the treaty before it is taken into consideration by the Bolivian legislature.

Although the present status of the disputed territory is a source of great inconvenience to both countries especially to the governors of the Argentine Province of Salta and the Bolivian Province bordering on Salta, it has not affected the relations between Bolivia and Argentina as both countries believe that the treaty will be eventually accepted by both.

From: *Russell* Report # 3680
R. F. Lisenbury
Military Attaché

August 27, 1926.

G-2 Report

4-1 2657-L-80

3850

ARGENTINA-----Political

Foreign Relationships.

(f) Treaties.

The following is the list of treaties between Argentina and foreign nations which are now in force also treaties which have been signed, but have not yet been ratified:

GERMANY.

- 1857 Sept.19 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.
- 1857 Sept.19 Separate article on the extension of Art.3 of the same treaty.
- 1912 Nov.30 Convention for exchange of postal packages on matter with no declared value, between 5 and 10 kilos in weight.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- 1853 July 10 Treaty for the free navigation of the Parana and Uruguay Rivers.
- 1853 July 37 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.
- 1871 July 27 Postal Convention.
- 1884 Jan.2 Convention for Increase of Weight and in Dimensions of the Packages of Samples of goods sent by post between the two countries.
- 1895 Feb.26 Exchange of official publications.
- 1896 Sept.26 Extradition Treaty.
- 1914 July 24 Pacifist Treaty. xx
- 1915 Mar.12 Convention relative to postal package service. x
- 1920 Dec.37 Treaty on commercial travellers. xx

NOTE:x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.

xx Indicates treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3570

Dec.15/25.

ARGENTINA-----Political

Foreign Relationships.

(f) Treaties.

---BELGIUM---

- 1886 Aug.12 Extradition Treaty.
- 1890 Oct.18 Convention for exchange of funds by means of postal orders.
- 1891 Jun. 6 Convention for exchange of periodical census of the population.
- 1924 Oct. 20 Convention on reciprocity in medical aid, etc. xx
- 1924 Dec. 24 Convention on reciprocity in payment of indemnities for labor accidents. xx

BOLIVIA.

- 1868 July 9 Postal convention.
- 1869 Feb.27)
- 1869 Mar.10) Additional protocols.
- 1883 Jan.20)
- 1868 July 9 Treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation.
- 1869 Feb.27 Additional protocol.
- 1880 Sept.10 Convention on telegraphic line services.
- 1881 May 16 Aug.10 Additional protocols.
- 1883 May 29 Protocol relative to telegraphic correspondence.
- 1886 May 25 Convention for exchange of publications.
- 1902 Feb. 3 General arbitration treaty.
- 1913 Jun.17 Railroad protocol.
- 1919 Jan. 4 Convention on frontier police. xx
- 1922 Jan. 6 Railway convention. xx
- 1925 July 9 Boundary treaty. xx

x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.
 xx Treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

From: M.A .Buenos Aires

Report #3570

Date: Dec.15/25

ARGENTINA-----Political
Foreign Relationships.

(f) Treaties.BRAZIL.

1838	Aug.27	Peace Convention. (Preliminary)
1838	" "	Additional article.
1856	Mar. 7	Treaty of peace, commerce, friendship and navigation.
1857	Nov.20	River Convention.
1857	" "	Additional protocol.
1878	Oct.22	Protocol on interpretation of Art.9 of Peace, friendship, commerce and navigation of March 7,1856.
1880	Feb.14	Agreement on execution of letters rogatory.
1901	Oct.30	Convention on manufacturing and trade marks.
1905	Sept.7	Treaty on general arbitration.
1914	Oct.31	Convention on interchange of postal packages without declared value.

CHILE.

1869	July 9	Postal Convention.
1894	Feb. 8	Protocol on construction and maintenance of road to Uspallata.
1894	Mar.15	Agreement on Extradition.
1898	Jan.12	Convention for transportation of diplomatic correspondence.
1902	May 28	Preliminary arbitration act.
1902	May 28	General Arbitration Treaty.
1902	May 28	Convention on limitation of naval armaments.
1902	July 10	Explanatory act on pacts on arbitration and limitation of armaments.
1903	Jan. 9	Convention on equivalence of Argentine and Chilean Squadrons.

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.
 xx Indicates treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3570

Date: Dec.15/25.

(f) Treaties.

COLUMBIA.

DENMARK

SPAIN.

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.

xx Indicates treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

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From: M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3570

Date: Dec. 15/35.

EXTRADITION TREATIESFRANCE.

- 1861 May 7 Extradition Treaty.
- 1884 June 30 Convention for Exchange of Publications on International Law and Cooperative Legislation.
- 1902 Sept.17 Convention for suppression of legalisation of signatures in Rotatory Commissions.
- 1916 Jul.9 Arbitration Convention. Ratified January 18, 1917. x
- 1919 Nov.27 Convention for reciprocity in payment of indemnities for labor accidents. Ratified the 26th of September 1922. x

FRANCE.

- 1853 July 10 Treaty for free navigation of the Paraná and Uruguay Rivers.
- 1863 Dec.22 Convention for increase of weights and dimensions of packages of goods exchanged by post between the two countries.
- 1864 June 10 Protocol relative to loss of French boat "Jeanne Amélie".
- 1889 Feb.26 Protocol on ab-intestato heirs.
- 1892 Aug.19 Additional Commercial Convention on Treaty of July 10, 1853.
- 1912 Nov.7 Convention for exchange of postal packages of
Dec.10 declared value.
- 1914 July 3 Arbitration Treaty. Ratified on Oct.4, 1916. x

GREAT BRITAIN.

- 1835 Feb. 3 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.
- 1849 Nov.24 Convention for reestablishment of perfect relations of friendship.
- 1853 July 10 Treaty for Free Navigation of the Paraná and Uruguay Rivers.
- 1869 May 32 Extradition Treaty and Additional Protocol.
- 1907-08 Sept.1 Convention for Exchange of Postal Packages.
Oct.29

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.

xx Indicates treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

ARGENTINA/-----Political

Foreign Friendships,(f) Treaties.

1912 Nov.18 Convention on Exchange of Postal Orders.
Dec.30

ITALY.

1876 Dec.2 Declaration on Exchange of Official Publications.
1885 Jun.20 Convention on Exchange of Publications of the
Executive and Legislative Powers.
1885 Dec.28 Consular Convention.
1886 Jun.16 Extradition Convention.
1887 Aug.1 Convention on Execution of Letters Rogatory
and of Sentences.
1890 May 29 Declaration on exchange of death certificates.
1894 Jun.1 Convention on treatment of the most favored
nation.
1895 Jan.31 Additional Protocol.
1907 Sept.18 General Arbitration Treaty.
1912 Aug.17 Sanitary Convention.
1920 Mar.26 Convention on reciprocity for payment of
indemnities to workmen for labor accidents.
Ratified Aug.31,1921. x

JAPAN.

1898 Feb. 3 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.

MEXICO.

1912 Aug.26 Convention for transportation of diplomatic
correspondence.

HOLLAND.

1893 Sept.7 Extradition Treaty.
1910 Sept.29 Convention on Reciprocal Medical Aid.
1910 Sept.29 Additional Protocol.

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.

xx Indicates treaties signed but not confirmed since
1914.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3570

Dec.15/35.

ARGENTINA -----Political

Foreign Relationships.PANAMA.

1916 Jan.10 Convention relative to exchange of postal packages.

PARAGUAY.

1877 Mar.14 Consular Convention.
 1886 Jun.25 Agreement on admission of Paraguayan Students to
 Oct.18 Universities and Colleges of the Republic.
 1892 Sept.15 Convention for Exchange of Declared Values.
 1892 Sept.15 Convention for Exchange of Postal Packages.
 1892 Sept.15 Convention for Exchange of Postal Orders.
 1899 Nov.6 General Arbitration Treaty.
 1902 Jan.25 Additional Protocol.
 1903 Oct.3 Convention for transportation of diplomatic correspondence.
 1908 May 30 Convention for Exchange of Livestock.
 1910 Jan.21 Convention on legalization of Letters Requisitorial and Letters Rogatory.
 1918 Aug.3 Additional Protocol. xx
 1916 July 8 Commercial Treaty. xx
 1916 Nov.15 Wireless Convention. x
 1921 Dec.7 Convention for interchange of optional correspondence of an official nature without charge. x

PERSIA.

1902 July 17 Treaty of Friendship and Commerce.

PERU.

1874 Mar.9 Postal Convention.
 1874 May 5 Consular Convention.
 1900 Aug.11 Convention for transportation of diplomatic correspondence.
 1910 Feb.10 Convention for suppression of legalisations in letters requisitorial and rogatory and other documents to or from country.

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.

xx Indicates treaties signed, but not confirmed since 1914.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires Report #3570

Dec.15/25

ARGENTINA-----Political
Foreign Relationships.

(f) Treaties.

PORTUGAL.

1878 Dec.24 Consular Convention.
1913 Nov.12 Agreement for exchange of Diplomatic Pouches.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

1878 Oct.8 Convention for mutual recognition of patents of
merchant vessels' tonnage.
1881 Oct.19 Additional Protocol.
1885 July 17 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.
1885 July 17 Additional Article.
1924 Oct.7 Convention on internment of insane, etc. (with
Norway.)

SWITZERLAND.

1886 Nov.27 Convention to increase the weights and dimensions
of packages of samples of goods sent by post
between the two countries.
1906 Nov.21 Extradition Convention.
1924 Nov.17 Arbitration Treaty. xx

TURKEY.

1910 Jun.11 Consular Protocol.

URUGUAY.

1888 Aug.14 Convention on Certified Pilots.
1888 Dec.7 & 14 Agreement on Diplomatic Ceremonies.
1893 May 14 Protocol relative to a piece of property in
the respective countries.
1899 Jun.8 General Arbitration Treaty.
1901 Dec.21 Additional Protocol.
1899 Oct. 26 Convention on Importation and Exportation of
Livestock.
1901 Sept.25 Additional Protocol.

ARGENTINA-----Political

Foreign Relationships

1903 Sept.7 Convention to suppress the legalization in letters requisitorial and letters rogatory.
1904 Dec.6 Rodríguez Larreta-Munoz Protocol.
1910 Jan. 5 Saenz-Peña- Ramirez Protocol.
1910 Aug.29 Sanitary Convention.
1915 July 26 Convention on exchange of university professors. Ratified December 17,1918. x
1916 Sept.28 Treaty on the Islands of the Uruguay River. xx
1918 Apr.11 Convention on Triangulation of the Uruguay River. x
1918 Nov.3 Sanitary Agreement. x
1922 May 18 Convention on Aeronavigation.xx

VENEZUELA.

1911 July 22 General Arbitration Treaty.

NOTE: x Indicates treaties existing since 1914.
xx Treaties signed but not confirmed since 1914.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires Report #3570

Dec.15/25.

G-2 Report

3850

ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: Foreign Relations.

APR 14 1936

(a) Status of Relations with Foreign Countries.

During the time that the Tacna and Arica Plebiscite Commission has been holding its sittings, the Argentine press has followed the course of events quite closely, but the press as a whole has not taken sides consistently with either Chile or Peru in the controversy.

The press editorials at various times have criticised Chile in her attitude towards the plebiscite, and at other times Peru, but neither country seems to be specially favored. The same may be said about public opinion in the country. The public seems to be entirely neutral in its attitude toward either Chile or Peru wishing only to see a fair plebiscite held which will settle the question completely and for good. Previously General Pershing's handling of the situation, and now General Lassiter's is accepted in Argentina as the fair means of settling the problem in order to establish friendly relations again between the two countries.

In case of war between Chile and Peru it is most unlikely that Argentina would assist either country either by force of arms or any other means as Argentina in late years has been on excellent terms with both, and desires to remain at peace in order to develop her own country. However, Argentina is anxious that the plebiscite be held as she considers the present status of Tacna and Arica dangerous to South American peace.

From: *R. J. Sweeney* Report #3601
M.A. Buenos Aires

March 23, 1936.

4-1 1926 26572-81 OCT 1 3850 2 7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Foreign Relations

(2) Status of Relations with Argentina

Chile and Peru

SEP 21 1926

As a result of the attempted settlement by the President of the United States of the long-pending dispute between Chile and Peru, the relations between Argentina and Chile, especially the territorial relations, between the two countries have become somewhat altered. Argentina realizes that the greatest cloud on the horizon to the peace of South America is the present status of the Provinces of Tacna and Arica now under control of Chile. Argentina does not desire to become involved in any foreign war, and is chiefly interested in her own interior development, and when the arbitral award was made by President Coolidge for a plebiscite to be held in the disputed provinces to determine whether they should belong to Chile or Peru, public opinion in Argentina looked with favor on the decision believing that the controversy between the two countries involved would be ended for good and all at the conclusion of the intended plebiscite.

During the sessions of the Plebiscite Commission in Arica in 1925 and 1926 the status of favorable Argentine opinion wavered between Chile and Peru. Public opinion and the press usually condemned the country whose policy and practices hindered the work of the commission. As a result of her methods in blocking the work of the commission so that it was impossible to hold a plebiscite in Tacna and Arica, Chile has suffered greatly in Argentine sentiment, and she is now looked upon as a country with more or less imperialistic motives.

Towards Peru, Argentina was perhaps more favorably disposed than she was to Chile even before the award was made. Argentina regarded Chile as responsible for the present status of Tacna and Arica. The Chilean tactics during the plebiscite proceedings has furnished the unfavorable impression towards Chile on the part of Argentina, and at the same time battered the sentimental relations of Argentina towards Peru.

From: *R. F. Dusenbury* Report #3879
R. F. Dusenbury,
Military Attaché, Buenos Aires

August 21, 1926

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3630

May 19, 1926. 2657-2-55

Subject: Bomb explosion American Embassy.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 22 W.M. JUN 11 1926

1. About 11.00 p.m. May 16th a bomb was placed in front of the front door of the American Embassy by an unknown party, and exploded at 11.05. There were no eye witnesses when this act was perpetrated, although a small storekeeper across the street from the Embassy said he saw a light on the front door step followed by a large explosion from which he received a slight wound in the elbow. He saw nobody in the vicinity of the Embassy at the time.

2. The purpose of this bomb in my opinion was a threat, and that there was no intention to do any great damage or to kill, as it was not large enough nor placed in the proper place to carry out these ends. From fragments of the bomb it would appear that it was an old shell of about 3" caliber and the police state that it came from the San Lorenzo Arsenal near Rosario, but no information has been obtained as to how it was taken out of the Arsenal.

3. As far as the damage was concerned a small piece of masonry was blown out next to the door, and the doors were badly shattered, and many Embassy windows as well as windows in the neighborhood were broken. The damage done to the Embassy is probably only a few hundred dollars, and no damage at all was done to the Military Attaché's office, which is in the next floor immediately above the door.

4. I happened to arrive at the Embassy 10 minutes after the explosion. A great crowd had gathered around the front door, but none of the authorities had yet arrived. I telephoned to the Ambassador and the Embassy staff who arrived in a few minutes. The Chief of Police and several assistants and detectives arrived shortly after me. Not a great deal was accomplished that night. Until nearly 3.00 a.m. on the 17th the investigation continued in the Embassy where the staff, high officials of the police department and members of the press, also a member of the "Liga Patriótica" were present.

the Minister of the Interior called at the Embassy to express the regrets of the Argentine Government on account of this occurrence, as conditions had been very quiet as far as Communistic tendencies in Argentina were concerned for a long time, and this is probably a sporadic attempt to keep what little Communism there is in Argentina alive.

6. Preceding this explosion two very significant communications were received by the American Embassy as follows:

(Copy-translation)

Argentine Republic---National Telegraph

To American Legation, Buenos Aires, Arroyo 1012.

From: Branch No.2, Rosario 420-51-9.5

"The labor unions and syndicates of an autonomous nature protest energetically against the decision of the Supreme Court of Boston in the Sacco and Vanzetti Case, and state their intention to carry out an intense campaign pro-boycott of American products in case of barbarous execution. Local Rosario Labor Federation (Ex oomulgada) Local Labor Union Mauro Federico Mendoza 3557."

Received May 15, 1926.

(Copy-Translation)

"ARGENTINE SYNDICATED UNION

"Central Committee
Rioja Street, 835.

Buenos Aires, May 14, 1926.

"To the American Ambassador,
Buenos Aires.

"Sir:

The Congress of the Labor Unions which make up in the centre of the country the Argentine Syndicated Union, and holding session in this capital at Rincon Street No.1141, approve by acclamation the non-execution of the death penalty weighing on Sacco and Vanzetti, whose liberty they at the same time demand.

The Congress desires that that Embassy transmit this request to the proper authorities in the name of a desire for solidarity of the proletariat of the Argentine.

Without any other motive, we salute the Ambassador very attentively.

For the Congress

"(Signed) Roberto Patcuoci ?"

These messages by the Argentine Express are as follows:
8. Following this explosion the local Argentinean Communist Party

these Communist Party is in Argentine State.
a long time, and this is because a shortage of funds must
be for the Communist Party in Argentine were concerned for
success of this movement, as conditions had been very difficult
the purpose to express the feelings of the Argentine Government on
the 2nd of May 1936. The purpose of the letter is to

This letter communication bore the stamp of the Union Sindical Argentina.

7. The "Prensa" of May 17th states that this is an attempt by anarchists in Argentina to express their protest against the sentences of Sacco and Vanzetti, who have been condemned to death in the United States. A few days ago some anarchists held a meeting in a hall on Rincon Street in this city in which great indignation was expressed in regard to these sentences, and another meeting was dated for Sunday morning May 16th at Boedo Street No. 937 in which several speakers gave talks on this same case. The bomb explosion coincided with the date of this meeting and there is no doubt that the two are related. (The "Prensa" probably meant communists instead of anarchists.)

8. It is understood from a detective who was present at this meeting that it was resolved that a "call" would be made on the American Ambassador, but evidently the police placed no significance on this resolution.

9. The Minister of War and several Army officers called up the office of the Military Attaché and congratulated me on my narrow escape on not being on the spot when the bomb exploded, which had very nearly happened as I arrived only a few minutes after the explosion took place.

10. During the next day---Monday---many members of the Diplomatic Corps called on the Embassy congratulating the Ambassador on the fact that nobody was injured.

11. On a separate sheet there is inclosed a photograph taken from "La Prensa" of May 17, 1936.

1 Incl.

R. W. Dusenbury
R. W. DUSENBURY,
Military Attaché.

POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

Subject: National Elections.

Pre-election intrigue, campaign activities and methods; influence on election results, bearing on disruption of public peace and order.

On March 7th general elections were held in the country for new seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the term of office of the old chamber expiring May 1st. Congress had been in extraordinary session since November 1925, but the members of Congress spent most of their time canvassing their districts trying to win votes for their own parties at the coming elections of the National Deputies, so that the work of the extraordinary session was practically nil. Tactics of an unscrupulous nature were often employed by the Irigoyenistas to win votes. In order to discredit the present administration attempts were made to foment strikes by labor unions by holding out rewards of office to labor leaders who would cause strikes. These rewards are to be forthcoming when Irigoyen is elected President as it is generally supposed that such will be the case. The non-functioning of Congress during the last sessions is another attempt to discredit the present administration. Election propaganda was chiefly made by politicians canvassing their own district and making direct appeals to the people.

The Liga Patriótica has been active in suppressing any lawlessness which might arise due to any pre-election intrigue. However, nothing of this nature occurred. The best newspapers in the country supported the present administration, but in spite of this the Irigoyen faction of the Radical Party was overwhelmingly successful in the Federal Capital which had formerly been the stronghold of the Socialists. The Irigoyenistas were also successful in the province of Buenos Aires, but suffered losses elsewhere. The newspapers in no way indicated the trend of public opinion, and had little influence on the elections. The victory of the Irigoyenistas was due to better party organization.

None of the parties have any particular party program, the whole election being a question of party leaders rather than issues.

According to the Constitution half of the Chamber of Deputies changes every two years, and the results of the late election give the following:

Radicals (Irigoyen).....	37
Radicals (Alvear).....	22
Conservatives.....	20
Socialists	4
	83

The new composition of the Chamber of Deputies is as follows:

Radicals (Irigoyen).....	61
Radicals (Alvear).....	33
Conservatives.....	42
Socialists.....	19
Democrats.....	3

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

Report # 3693

32

2 W.D. 15 1926

(1) Political Composition.

On March 7, 1938 general elections were held throughout the country for members in the Chamber of Deputies to take office April 1. The result of the elections shows the composition of the Chamber of Deputies is considerably altered while the Senate remains the same except for one vacancy.

The new political composition as of September 1st is as follows:

	No. in Senate	No. in House
Radical Anti-Personalista	14	38
Radical Personalista	4	57
Conservatives	9	43
Socialists	3	19
Democrats	-	3
Doubtful	-	3
Postponed Diplomats	-	5
Vacancies	1 (San Juan)	1 (Sta. Fé.)
	30	158

The role of the Personalista faction of the Radical Party has been that of an effective bloc. This faction is dominated by the Ex-President Irigoyen who holds no government office, and all important legislation almost from the beginning of the present Administration has been blocked by the Irigoyenista Radicals. The tactics of the other parties have been very similar, but to a lesser degree.

The Personalistas have no program of their own other than running in opposition to the President, and discrediting the present administration as much as possible so as to insure their own election in 1938.

There is little cooperation among parties. Attempts have been made to form a consolidation of all parties in opposition to the Personalistas, but this has not been attended with success to date.

From: *Card*
A.A. Argentina

Report # 3693

September 15/38.

POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

Subject: Present Executive

4-1-2657-1-10

Prestige and influence.

Congress and Its Failings.

2657-1-14
RECEIVED AUG 8 1926

Plain Speaking by President Alvear

A Vigorously - Worded Message.

After the long delay of two months occasioned by the necessity of waiting for the House of Deputies to declare itself a constituted body, Congress was opened yesterday afternoon by President Alvear with the accustomed form and ceremony.

The Presidential Message, as usual, consisted of a lengthy review of the national situation, covering a wide range of subjects of public interest. Dr. Alvear had a good deal to say about the breakdown of the Parliamentary system during the past year, and went straight to the point from the very beginning, in dignified and courteous language that conveyed no empty compliments to a Legislature which had proved itself barren of any practical results. He recalled that, when inaugurating last year's Congress he had expressed his sincere and fervent hopes that the Chambers would carefully study and resolve the innumerable matters of fundamental importance which the Executive Power had submitted to its consideration, and that its labours would perfect the initiative of the Executive for the general good of the country. He stated quite frankly that, for various reasons which the Executive Power "respected", the participation which he had asked for and expected had been reduced to a minimum. The ordinary sessions passed without the well-known good will of all as individuals having given practical effect to the Parliamentary labours, and the Executive had found itself compelled, by force of circumstances, to have resort to those measures legal but limited and of comparatively little efficacy, which the Constitution, laws, and Government practice had placed in its hands in order to prevent a paralysis of the administration, to meet the most pressing exigencies of the public service, and to face the consequences of the absence of those legal sanctions which were proper to the general progress. In this situation the Executive had allowed itself again to refer to Congress, and the convened extraordinary sessions with a view to the study and solution of certain questions of the greatest urgency. Unfortunately, however, this extraordinary period had likewise proved without result, and thus there arrived a moment in which the country was left without a Budget, and the risk arose of the administration being completely paralysed. The Executive was obliged to resign itself to the failure of Congress to deal with these matters, but it was no less obligatory to resolve in some manner the exceedingly grave situation in which the Administration was placed owing to the lack of a Budget. It was indispensable to recover the constitutional possibility of proceeding with the fulness of the faculties which were afforded by the Parliamentary recess, since the result of the inaction of Congress was to impede the adoption of those measures of emergency which the Executive Power could take in the absence of the hon. members. This state of affairs determined the withdrawal of the agenda, and the consequent resolve of the Government to adjust the administrative organisation to the provisions of the Budget Law last sanctioned by Congress.

Buenos Aires Herald
July 2, 1926

Buenos Aires Herald, July 2, 1926.

From:.....

Report #3647

July 8, 1926.

Subject: Present Executive.

"I especially desire," proceeded Dr. Alvear, "to direct your attention to the true significance of this attitude. By means of this arrangement the Executive Power wished to give an unequivocal proof of its prudence in the exercise of its faculties, and of respect for the opinions of the hon. members, in spite of all that may have been maintained to the contrary. The Executive Power, placed as it was under the unavoidable necessity of fixing rules for the administration, and disappointed in its last attempt to establish them with your sanction, determined them for itself, taking as a basis the last pronouncement of Congress. That is the truth."

The President continued that he had succeeded in maintaining the authority of the First Magistrate of the nation above all the passions and against all the influences which might have affected it in the agitation raised by the ambitions and interests of those political groups which disputed between themselves the privilege of embodying the best interpretation of popular sentiment. He held, and would continue to hold, that this attitude was convenient for the country. It was a line of conduct which excluded the possibility of the Government's losing, under the influence of the enthusiasm which was always engendered by political contest, that tranquil view which was indispensable for inspiring its action under the Constitution and laws, and which often imposed limitations on the most ardent civic aspirations, whether these applied to political forces in sympathy with or opposed to the Government.

"My desire—and, as I consider it, my duty, is to adjust my conduct as Governor to the civic traditions which I have professed throughout my life. It should not appear strange, then, that I should attribute to the Government the task of watching over the progress of the nation and the welfare of its people, that I should at the same time leave to the people themselves the right and duty of observing and judging the conduct of their governors, and that we should be guided by the course of public opinion in carrying out our work by such means as the Constitution has established in its wise régime of a republican, democratic, and representative organisation. And if patriotism should exact from us that we take steps to prevent any retrocession from the spiritual progress of the nation there is only one legitimate path for us to follow, to contribute to the greater enlightenment of our masses and the development of their moral conscience.

"It is with these ideas in view that the action of my Government should be interpreted in the face of the various phenomena of internal politics. I have applied them in the relations between the Federal Power and the provinces, and in the inevitable contact of the Government with the political parties in general. Thus I believe that I have complied, from the Government, with the principles which I embraced and sustained as a citizen, and it is thus that I have responded to the political faith which raised me to the office of First Magistrate, defending Radicalism from the erroneous concep-

tion which would deform it in representing it as a political organisation which is purely declamatory, vitiated by an un-sound tendency to a campaign of aggravation and propaganda, and by the absence of a correlation between the proposals announced in its promises and programmes and the positive reality of its exercise of public power. Radicalism, in the idealist conception of its founders, and in the historical Argentine sense of the word, is not this. It is before and above everything else a patriotic fervour, a democratic sincerity, a moral and mental probity for serving the nation and giving a real life to its institutions. For this fight the citizens from their civic positions, and the functionaries and governors from the public posts at which they have had the honour to arrive.

"In this moment in which I place myself in communication with the national Parliamentary representatives, I venture to declare that the primordial cause of the delay which

Buenos Aires Herald, July 3, 1926.

From..... Report #3647

July 8, 1926.

6.

has been encountered in the basic work of legislation and good government, a work which cannot be realised until we join up the labours of Parliament with those of the Executive, consists precisely in the fact that the political disputes which are necessarily found in a democracy have been displaced to a large extent from the popular sphere to which they rightly belong, and have been introduced into Parliament and the action of Government, contrary, as I am willing to believe, to the individual desires of all, but as the consequence of a phenomenon of general perturbation. We must prepare ourselves for a healthy reaction which will assert its claims to our imperative moral responsibilities, and give to politics from our energies that which is necessary in order that we do not fall into the other, and equally pernicious, extreme of remaining divorced from those popular sentiments and aspirations which are the essential basis of the legitimacy of our public representation.

"This necessity which I have permitted myself to point out, that we should all of us contribute to putting the Constitutional organisms in movement, is peremptory if we desire to comply with our duty of maintaining that reciprocal control of powers which is the basis of the political organisation of the Republic. The exigencies of the public interest render impossible the absence of the Government in such a manner that every proper activity of a power which is abandoned by those who should legitimately exercise it should fatally conclude by being absorbed by any of the other powers which, by force of circumstances, finds itself compelled to go beyond the limits of its prerogatives and destroy the equilibrium so wisely prescribed by the Carta Fundamental. That we should avoid this, Gentlemen, for love to the Republic, is the solemn invocation which the President of the nation directs to you."

THE YEAR REVIEWED.

AN OPTIMISTIC REPORT.

Turning to the general situation of Argentina, Dr. Alvear said that the life which the country had developed under the impulse of its own energies, stimulated by the United Administrative activity which alone had been rendered possible by circumstances, had been one of full economical and cultural prosperity, and the prestige of the nation abroad had evidently been accentuated. The social peace had not been disturbed by any episode which had succeeded in altering in any manner worthy of mention, the cooperation between Capital and Labour in the creation and distribution of wealth. Notwithstanding the notorious deficiencies of their legislation in this regard, the coordination of forces had not presented any difficulties to the good will of the parties.

The figures relating to the economic balance had been subject to those fluctuations which were common to all those peoples who lived in close relations with the world in general, but in general the balances had been favourable. Private wealth was increasing, and the public received a share of the benefit, though in a less measure than would be the case if the legislative and administrative progress to which he had referred had permitted greater and better advantage to be derived from the fiscal lands, the public services, the national colonies, etc.

In foreign commerce the favourable balances of trade predominated, but even in those cases, such as occurred last year, when they were inverse, they could not be interpreted as indicating a decline from the course of prosperity which was being followed by the country. It often happened that the momentary results of slight disturbances in their production coincided with the increased acquisition of machinery and primary material which were indispensable for the amplifying and improvement of their agriculture and industries, together with merchandise of foreign manufacture to the use of which the people of Argentina had accustomed themselves in their high standard of living. From all this it was to be gathered that they should not lose heart, a strong faith in the future and confidence in their own powers being

one and auspicious features of the national character.

RELATIONS WITH THE LEAGUE.

The President considered it an opportune moment to refer to the fact that the Executive had accepted the invitation sent to the Republic to take part in the debates which the League of Nations had inaugurated on the possible modifications of its Convention and the possibilities of disarmament. Congress had not yet made a pronouncement concerning the situation in which Argentina stood with regard to the League, and so far as this was concerned the Executive could take no action until that pronouncement was forthcoming. Nevertheless

Subject: Present Expenses.

less, he had responded to the invitation to attend these debates by appointing representatives to participate in the meetings, which would be attended by delegates of all the nations who, although not belonging to the League, had been considered worthy of contributing to the study of these questions. They were not matters to be regarded as without interest to this country, which had never assumed an attitude of indifference towards any proposals which suggested the possibility of realising progress on behalf of the peace and welfare of the world.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

Discussing the financial position in greater detail, Dr. Alvear said that the purchasing power of the Argentine currency was being maintained, in spite of the financial depression whose effects had been felt throughout the whole of the world for some years past. The conditions as regards the public debt were favourable, owing to the consolidation of a considerable part thereof, and these conditions would be still more satisfactory when the Bill which related to the consolidation of the debt to the Banco de la Nación had been converted into law. The excellent reputation of Argentina was being strengthened daily, if that were possible, as evidenced by the success of the recent loan contracted for consolidating certain short-term debts, and the amount of which, 20 million dollars, was oversubscribed several times in the period of a few minutes. The rate of issue, 94.50 per cent., free of commission and other expenses apart from the delivery of the bonds, was a clear and incontrovertible sign of the brilliant restoration of the credit of this country in the financial world. The principal factors in this happy situation were the strict punctuality which was observed in the fulfilment of the engagements into which the nation had entered, both here and abroad, and the practice of a prudent administration based on the principle that expenditure should be confined within the limits indicated by the economic and financial capacity of the State.

FOREIGN DEBT.

After alluding to the necessity of an income-tax as a further means of consolidating the national wealth, the President went on to say that the foreign debt amounted on December 31, 1924, to 687,354,387.29 paper pesos. During 1925 bonds were issued for a value of \$176,952,454.29, while there were amortisations amounting to \$29,739,214.55. On December 31 last bonds for a total of \$833,567,627.29 were in circulation. The above-mentioned sum of 176 millions odd was represented by the two loans placed in New York, for 45 millions and \$29,700,000 respectively, in accordance with Laws Nos. 11,206 and 11,207, and which, as the House was aware, were destined to reduce the floating debt.

The internal debt as at December 31, 1924, was 836,237,480 paper pesos. During the year 1925 bonds for \$95,070,000 were issued and bonds for \$21,072,254.55 amortised, the amount remaining in circulation being \$910,225,295.45.

For the purposes of Public Works to be carried out in 1924, Congress had authorised an issue of \$84,000,000 which was repeated for the past year.

In accordance with authorisations by Congress, the Executive issued during 1924 bonds for \$44,070,000 and in 1925 for 36 millions. The second series of Sanitary Works bonds, for a value of 15 millions, had been issued in pursuance of Laws Nos. 10,998 and 11,165.

The total circulation of the consolidated public debt, internal and foreign, on December 31 last, amounted to \$1,743,792,852.74 paper currency.

THE FLOATING DEBT.

The floating debt, as at April 30, 1926, was \$479,259,908, this figure including the debt of the State Railways, calculated at \$193,012,348.29. It was to be noted that in the year 1925 the amount of this latter debt only increased by 8 million pesos. Included in this figure of 193 millions odd was \$24,250,000 owing by the State Railways to the national Treasury, to which must be added sums anticipated during 1925 for the payment of interest, amounting to \$9,401,604.97. There was thus a total of \$33,651,604.97 representing the debt of the State Railways to the Treasury.

The total of the floating debt was made up as under:

Internal.	
Short-term credits . . .	\$341,199,000
Exchange difference . . .	35,000,000
Conversion Fund . . .	15,909,091
In the United States.	
Loan of 27 million dollars . . .	62,597,272
Loan of 10 million dollars . . .	23,554,545
Total	\$479,259,908

As compared with the figure which he gave to Congress in his last Message, this showed a reduction of 194,574,946 pesos, that being the amount consolidated by means of the loans realised by the Executive in accordance with Laws 11,206 and 11,207. The realisation of the loan recently negotiated with American bankers for 20 million dollars would allow of the consolidation of the loan of 10 millions contracted for the modernisation of the fleet. Thus a sum of 218,129,491 pesos would be consolidated, and the floating debt reduced to 456,705,363 pesos.

FOREIGN TRADE.

The total amount of the international commerce of Argentina during the year 1925 was represented by the sum of 1,744,777,548 gold pesos, being a reduction of 95,327,027 gold pesos in comparison with the previous year. This was made up as follows:

Imports, \$878,847,666 Inc. \$	48,137,673
Exports, \$867,929,883 Dec.	\$143,464,700
Total.	\$1,744,777,548 Dec. \$ 95,327,027

The difference between the figures corresponding to imports and exports during 1925 was an adverse balance of \$8,917,784 gold, as against a favourable balance of \$182,684,589 gold in 1924.

From:..... Report #3647

M.A. Buenos Aires

-4-

July 6, 1926.

36.

Subject: Present Executive.

NAVAL REQUIREMENTS.

Turning to naval matters, the President said that the unsatisfactory situation which had persisted for many years owing to the want of necessary material had been aggravated by the passage of time, and the fleet was not in a due position to ensure the maritime defence of the nation. After reporting on the modernisation of the Alivadavia and Moreno, his Excellency said that the limited number of destroyers exposed to risk the mobility of the cruisers, since it was not possible to provide the necessary protection and vigilance which these larger units required. The absolute lack of submarines was another deficiency which was making itself felt more and more every day. This was a matter of vital importance, as also was that of securing a competent personnel.

THE PRINCE'S VISIT.

In the course of the message, his Excellency made the following reference to the visit of the Prince of Wales:

"Proof of the high consideration and esteem in which the Argentine Republic is held by the Government and people of Great Britain was afforded by the visit which—as announced to your honourable Houses in my last message—was paid by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"Consequently, the Argentine Government did all in its power to entertain the illustrious representative of a people so closely connected with the progress and advancement of our country, and it is with great pleasure that the Executive Power recalls the manner in which the people of Argentina showed their sincere sympathy with the incalculable contribution made by the British nation to our moral and material development and of that nation's unshakable faith in the future of our country which has so often been demonstrated."

From: *Rundown by* Report #3647
M.A. Buenos Aires

July 8, 1936.

G-2 Report

2800

POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION---ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.

(c) Programma of foreign origin. AUG 6 1926

"La Nación" of April 28th published an article from the New York Times which stated that a delegate from the Third International in South America has reported to the Soviet Congress in Moscow, in session during January and February, that Argentina occupies third place in the World in the number of adherents, a majority of whom are located on the estancias away from the capital, that these followers are well organized by foreign propaganda agents, and are ready for any revolutionary movement.

The great weakness in Argentina---according to the delegate---was the little influence which the Communists exercised in the Army, and he stated that he was using his influence to have the workers on the estancias enroll themselves in the Army so that in case of any disturbances the neutrality of the army could be counted upon. The delegate further communicated that the date set for a general strike in Argentina is August 18, 1926, when the water and electricity will be shut off and transportation of all kinds stopped. The pretext of the strike will be to demand open the days on Saturday, Sunday and half of Monday each week.

"La Nación" wrote an editorial on the above article ridiculing the subject as fantastic and absurd. After the war the Communists did create many serious disturbances in Argentina especially among the port workers. These troubles were chiefly sponsored from Moscow, and considerable money was spent here to keep up the agitation. Through the efforts of the "Liga Patriótica" and the Army and police these troubles were stopped, and order was again established. Since that time the Communists have been losing ground steadily in Argentina. Wages are fairly high in comparison with what they have been, work is more plentiful, and labor in general is more contented now than it has been since the war.

As far as the red element enrolling itself in the Army is concerned, the statement is equally absurd. Enlistments are taken by lot and not from choice, and men do not enroll in the Army any time of the year they please, but the army is filled with conscripts shortly after the first of the year. As far as any Radical element in the Army is concerned in trying to create discontent and unrest, it is insignificant.

The Soviet influence in Argentina at present is not great and according to officials of the "Liga Patriótica" and police is becoming less.

From: *Rev. D. J. ...* Report #3655
M.A. Buenos Aires

June 11, 1936. 126.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION----ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.(c) Propaganda of Foreign Origin.(c) Russian Propaganda.

At present the Third International of Moscow is spending about \$100,000 a year in Argentina. This money is paid chiefly to clever talkers of the Communistic faith to spread red propaganda in Argentina. Meetings are held periodically at different places in the city in which a small admission fee is charged, and this with the money Moscow spends, keeps up the Communist organization in Argentina.

A newspaper called "Antorcha" (The Torch) is printed by the Communists at intervals and sent around the country, as well as in the neighboring countries to keep up with Red agitation. Frequently the issues are suppressed, and the printing establishment raided. Red agitators however, as a rule, have been given quite a free hand in Buenos Aires, and they have held their meetings with little police interference, though under police supervision. The latest edition of "Antorcha" of May 15th, which was suppressed, contained about 1500 issues. The issue of that date was followed by a Communist meeting on the morning of May 16th which was attended by about 500 people. The main topic of both the newspaper edition of May 15th and the meeting of May 16th was the Sacco and Vanzetti case in Massachusetts. Strong protests were made against the execution of these men. May 16th at about 11:00 p.m. a small bomb was exploded on the front doorstep of the American Embassy which undoubtedly was the consequence of the meeting. The purpose of the bomb was probably a protest only against the capital sentences awarded these men. A few years ago the sum spent by Moscow in Argentina was much larger, but the movement is probably more self-supporting at present than it was then, but still it has also died out a great deal in the last few years.

The Red movement in Argentina is mostly for the purpose of causing discontent and strikes among the labor element. As a rule the movement is not taken very seriously by the police, and energetic measures are taken against it only after disorders or outrages occur.

The Communist organization in Argentina is considered one of the strongholds of the Third International in the New World. When labor conditions are less favorable than at present it is probable that it will try to cause similar labor conditions in Argentina as existed at the close of the World War of such large proportions as almost to approach a civil war.

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PROPAGANDA AND SOCIAL INFORMATION --- ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.

DATE: AUG 6

(b) Propaganda of Bonapartist Origin.

Propaganda in the Radical Party. Since President Alvear has come into office the Irigoyen faction of the Radical Party has done everything to bring discredit upon the present administration. This faction has successfully formed a bloc in Congress so that practically no legislation has passed Congress for three years.

The idea of discrediting the present administration is to insure the election of Irigoyen or one of his satellites at the next Presidential election.

Attempts have been made by agents of the Irigoyen Party to further undermine the present administration by causing labor troubles in the country. Rewards of office have been offered to labor leaders by Irigoyen agents if they will cause strikes in the country. These offices have been promised when Irigoyen is elected President. The "Liga Patriótica" has successfully contested this propaganda. Bill posters have been posted up in various parts of the city confirming its belief in the sincerity of the President in creating a bureaucracy out of his office during the present crisis on account of the inability of Congress to pass needed legislation.

A monthly periodical by the name of "Le Positiviste" is edited by a Turkish subject called Joseph Felmi. This periodical is printed in French at Casilla 2056 Buenos Aires. Mr. Felmi expects soon to become a naturalized Argentine citizen.

The character of the periodical is that of an anti-French propaganda sheet of the most scurrilous character. Its purpose is to attack the French national character, and create bad feelings towards the French nation on the part of American nations. There is a large Turkish and Syrian colony in Buenos Aires. Many of the articles have been devoted to the failure of the French administration in Syria, and also to the atrocities committed by French troops there during the last year.

The editor of this magazine has attempted through the American Embassy to obtain names and addresses of members of the American Congress and the foreign diplomatic corps in Washington presumably to put them on the subscription list of this magazine.

There are inclosed herewith two copies of "Le Positiviste."

Army Propaganda.

Since Congress voted an authorization of \$100,000,000 to be spent on military armaments in Argentina the country seems to have lost much of its interest in expending this amount, and only small sums have been spent out of this authorization to date. In order to make the country realize the needs of new armament and new organization of the army which would require an increase

From:..... Report #3654
A.A. Buenos Aires

June 11, 1936.

REGULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION---ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.(b) Propaganda of Domestic Origin.Army Propaganda (Cont'd)

in its personnel Colonel Ramon Molina of the artillery contributed a series of three propagandist articles to the "Nación" of April 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The main points brought out in these articles are:

Divisional Areas.

That the present territorial organization of the country in 5 Divisional areas is not sufficient as in case of war in South America Argentina would probably be confronted with two powerful enemies at the same time, Chile on one flank and Brazil on the other. In Brazil's organization it has 5 Infantry Divisions which could rapidly be expanded to 8, and each Brazilian Division is larger than an Argentine Division as the Brazilian Division has 4 Infantry regiments and the Argentines only 3. In the case of Chile, she has 5 operative units (reinforced brigades) which can be expanded to 6, and each unit is at least equal to the Argentine Division so that in case Argentina were at war with both these powers she would be opposed on either flank by forces superior to her own. She would be invaded by Brazil in the Provinces of Corrientes and Entre Rios, and by Chile in Mendoza and Neuquen, and one of these flanks she would have to abandon while she defended the other.

On account of the distances separating these flanks, and the difficulty of transportation between them, one enemy would be able to invade the country with practically no resistance offered.

A new territorial division of the country should be made, and the following is a suggested division. Each Divisional area should include a Combat Division:

First Division: Federal Capital.

Second Division: Province of Buenos Aires with the southern limit Mar del Plata, Tandil, Olavarría, Pigue, Darraqueira exclusive. Headquarters: Campo de Mayo.

Third Division: Provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes and Territory of Misiones. Headquarters: Paraná.

Fourth Division: Provinces of Córdoba, La Rioja and Catamarca. Headquarters: Coracoba.

Fifth Division: Provinces of Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Salta and Jujuy and Territory of the Andes. Headquarters: Tucuman.

Sixth Division: Province of Buenos Aires south of line named under 2nd Division and including same, and the territories of La Pampa, Neuquen, Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego. Headquarters: Bahía Blanca (strong garrison to be in Neuquen)

Seventh Division: Provinces of Mendoza, San Luis and San Juan. Headquarters: Mendoza.

Eighth Division: Province of Santa Fé and Territories of Chaco and Formosa. Headquarters in Santa Fé.

From:..... Report #33222
M.A. Buenos Aires #3654

June 11, 1936.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION---ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.(b) Propaganda of Domestic Origin.Army Propaganda.

Each Divisional Area should contain a complete Division, and in addition three complete Cavalry Divisions should be organized.

Instruction of Reserves.

The mass of a modern army consists of the reserves who are incorporated in the army with the permanent personnel, and who also fill up vacancies caused by the casualties and also form new units. The reserves of the Argentine Army have never been trained through lack of funds and have never been organized. The period of training in the permanent army is brief, and the discharged man quickly forgets what has been learned. For this reason the term of service should be extended in the permanent army, and short periods of instruction should be given each year to the reserves so as to keep them in proper training in case of war.

New Armaments.

In case of war the largest army that a South American power could count upon would probably be about 200,000 men. The war would be one of movement and not of position, and frontal attacks would be rare, and for this reason weapons such as tanks, motors, grenades, etc. which are essential in war of position and are not essential here. Increase in power and number of rapid fire weapons is advocated, and a smaller proportion of rifles.

In the artillery only three types of guns are needed, accompanying prices for the Infantry and a heavy and a light type.

Conclusion.

The following summary gives the present needs of the Argentine Army.

1° Cavalry Divisions of sufficient strength to be able to reconnoiter efficiently in the zone of operations during a war and to be able to fight independently and bring on a decision. For this purpose a Division of 2 Brigades of 3 Cavalry regiments is recommended. Each regiment should be furnished with light and heavy machine guns. Each brigade should also have a group of 2 batteries of 75 mm. and one 105 mm. each battery to contain 4 pieces. Sufficient transport should be assigned these divisions in order to have a large radius of action.

2° Sufficient number of properly organized combat Divisions.

3° Sufficient instruction for the Reserves.

4° Arms and materials of war, modern and appropriate to conditions in Argentina.

Whatever of the above conditions are lacking may cause a failure to defend the country properly in time of war. The armaments law passed by Congress will assist greatly in national security; but it failed absolutely to give to the army the required personnel or to provide for the instruction of the reserves.

From: *Rev. Summary* Report # 3654

June 11, 1936.

Subject: Proprietary.

After the termination of the World War, labor conditions in Argentina became chaotic. Hipólito Irigoyen was President of the Republic at the time, and he took no vigorous stand to bring labor conditions back to normalcy.

In 1922, police statistics of the capital showed 8,000 socialists, 4,000 syndicalists and 11,000 anarchists; of these 2000 Socialists, 4,000 syndicalists and 117 anarchists were Argentines. The bulk of these radicals were Spaniards and Russians, and it was from this class of people that labor troubles started.

To combat the influences of these elements, an organization called the "Liga Patriótica Argentina" was organized in 1919 composed of the best citizens of the country. It has assisted agents of the law in suppressing strikes and unlawful assemblies or has taken matters in its own hands in restoring order. The Liga Patriótica Argentina has developed into a powerful organization whose work at present is to keep close watch on radical elements in the country, and at the same time contribute articles of a patriotic or educational nature in the leading papers. Close contact is maintained with the working element. Articles are published in the leading newspapers under the direction of the "Liga Patriótica" and speakers of the League make frequent addresses on historical subjects, patriotism, public health and sanitation, how to better living conditions, good government, Constitution, etc. Literature is freely distributed among the people in the form of pamphlets and bill posters.

The Liga Patriótica Argentina is strictly a non-political organization and takes sides with none of the parties except when the interests of good government are involved. The central organization is in the city of Buenos Aires with branches in nearly all the small towns of the republic.

Largely as a result of the work of the "Liga Patriótica" the labor troubles have subsided and many of the labor agitators have left the country or have been deported, but the League still continues its educational propaganda in the interests of good government. There is a meeting in Buenos Aires of the Central

Every May there is a meeting in Buenos Aires of the Central Committee and Delegates from more than 1400 "Brigades" distributed in different parts of the Republic to outline work for the coming year. "Patria" is in touch with all propagandist

The "Liga Patriótica" is in touch with all propagandist efforts which affect the interest of the country, and which are against law and order. At present there is little propaganda of any consequence in the country with the exception of that of a political nature.

The membership of the "Liga Patriótica" is 450,000.

From: R.W. Turnbull
M.A. Buenos Aires

Report ~~xxxxxx~~
#3653

June 11, 1926.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION --ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.

(a) Susceptibility of Public to Propaganda Effort.

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Illiteracy.

One of the chief elements which has favored the spread of radical propaganda in Argentina has been the large percentage of foreign born, and the illiteracy of this part of the population.

This percentage of foreign born is about twice as large as that of the United States. A disproportionate share of the immigration into the country has settled in the city of Buenos Aires where about 40% of the people are foreign born. A large percentage of this foreign born population is ignorant and illiterate, and their standard of living is low. They come chiefly from southern and eastern Europe. It is only natural to expect that propaganda efforts in such a field would meet with some success.

Shortly after the termination of the World War these people had been led by agitators into dangerous strikes at times almost assuming the proportions of civil war.

Argentines as a rule are susceptible to propaganda of a nationalistic and internationalistic nature. The best newspapers devote quite a bit of space to articles of this nature, and are a great influence on moulding public opinion.

Political propaganda is more effectively spread by canvassing the country by party speakers where a direct appeal to the people is made ---as closer contact can be made in this way with illiterate elements.

Isolation.

There are no large centers of population in Argentina which might be called isolated from the capital or the vital center of the country. Railroads and mail service radiate from the capital and connect up all populated parts of the country, with the city of Buenos Aires which dominates the rest of the country in the spread of propaganda or in advertising. The dailies and periodicals published in Buenos Aires are delivered to the farthest corners of the republic. Not only does the city of Buenos Aires contain about one fifth of the population of the country, but it is the magnet to which all new residents in Argentina are usually drawn when opportunity offers. Its dominance is without parallel in Latin America with the possible exception of Havana, and is quite contrary to the situation in Brazil where each of half a dozen cities is the influential factor in its particular part of the country, and these cities are more or less isolated from each other.

A part of the country which contains small isolated settlements where communications are difficult is the Territory south of the Rio Negro or Patagonia, but the population in these territories is insignificant compared to the rest of the country.

Racial traits.

The bulk of the Argentine people are law-abiding and patriotic, and dangerous propaganda makes little headway with

From:..... Report # 3848

June 11, 1926.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION---ARGENTINA

Subject: Propaganda.

this class. However there are foreign elements who have migrated to Argentina since the war especially from Russia, the Balkan countries, Italy and Spain where political conditions have been unsettled for so long, and they have been used to hearing radical propaganda for years and have readily accepted the doctrines of agitators.

They believe that they can better their living conditions by changing the present order of things. It is among these elements in particular in Argentina where dangerous propaganda is spread.

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From: *Rud. M. ...* Report 3648
M.A. Buenos Aires

June 11, 1936.

Argentina-----Military

Subject- Military Alliances and Agreements

(a) Military Allies

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Argentina has no foreign alliances nor has she any agreements with any other country in which she would be obligated to assist that country if she were involved in a foreign war, nor would any other country be bound to assist Argentina in case she were at war with another power. The most probable way in which Argentina would be allied with a foreign power would be that in case of a foreign war between two other powers than Argentina, Argentine interests would demand that she join one side or the other, or if Argentina were involved in war with another power, the interests of some foreign nation would require that country to join Argentina.

The question of wars in South America is, in my opinion, considerably different from that in Europe where countries are highly developed, densely populated and wish to expand. South American countries have not the same conflicting interests and should a war break out between two of them it is not probable that other neighboring countries would be brought in. All of the countries are largely undeveloped and thinly populated and their greatest problems and interests are at home and they have little interest as to what their neighbors are doing. A war in South America might involve one or smaller states outside of the original countries that started the war, generally speaking however it is not probable that any war in South America would develop into a continental affair.

It is the general opinion in Argentina that the most likely foreign war in which she might possibly be involved in would be a war against Brazil. This would most probably be a localized war which might ultimately involve Paraguay and Uruguay on account of their positions as buffer states between these two large South American countries. Paraguayan sentimental interests in late years have probably been more favorable to Brazil than to Argentina and in case Paraguay would become involved, she would join Brazil rather than Argentina. In the case of Uruguay, opinion is so divided that it is impossible to say which way she would side. There seems to be a sharp contrast of opinion in Uruguay in regard to Argentina and Brazil. Southern Uruguay, especially around Montevideo, seems to favor Argentina, northern Uruguay favors Brazil. Brazil or Argentina would most probably ally themselves with either Paraguay or Uruguay in case of an act of aggression committed by one of these larger states against one of the buffer states. This would most probably bring on a localized war, Argentina against Brazil with one of them allied with either Paraguay or Uruguay or both.

In case of war between Argentina and Brazil, Chile would most probably hold aloof as she knows that her two northern neighbors, Peru who holds a great hatred against her due to the loss of Tacna and Arica and Bolivia who desires a port on the Pacific would welcome a chance to make war upon her if they thought that they had a good chance of success.

Thus in a war involving Argentina and Brazil, most probably the only countries that would become involved would be Paraguay and Uruguay. Bolivia having no serious conflict of interests would remain neutral.

Were Argentina and Chile to go to war, I do not believe that Brazil would be drawn in the conflict. The relations between Argentina and Brazil

From: *[Signature]*
M.A. Buenos Aires

Report No. 3734

Date December 13, 1926.

Argentina-----Military

Subject- Military Alliances and Agreements

(a) Military Allies(continued)

are in my opinion more anti-Brazil on the part of Argentina than anti-Argentina on the part of Brazil. Brazil for many years in the past and also at the present time has her hands full at home and there is no reason for her being drawn into a Chilian-Argentine War. There is really no conflict of interests of great importance between the two countries and the only reason why Brazil should join in on such a war is the the natural antipathy which the two races hold against each other. Brazil would have nothing to gain were she to ally herself with Chile in such a war, and the probability is that she would have far more to lose. Brazilian public opinion in such a war would favor Chile.

In case of such a war between Argentina and Chile, Peru would probably seize the opportunity to regain Tacna and Arica. Bolivia would also probably ally herself with Argentina on account of her hatred for Chile and on account of her desire to gain a port on the Pacific. Were Bolivia involved, Paraguay might seize the opportunity of forcing Bolivia out of the Gran Chaco, the disputed territory between Paraguay and Bolivia.

Argentina fears that in case of war between herself and Chile or Brazil, the other country might step in and take up sides against her, thus placing her between the other two most powerful South American powers fighting against her, at least she fears that such a thing could be a possibility. She is planning for such an eventuality in which she might be involved in war against Chile and Brazil, but my opinion is that as the situation stands today, such a war is improbable. Chile or Brazil would remain neutral in case Argentina were at war with either one or the other.

Were Chile and Peru to go to war over the Tacna and Arica dispute I believe that Argentina would remain neutral throughout unless some unforeseen event would draw her in the war in protection of her own interests and in such a case she would probably side with Peru. She is far more sentimentally inclined toward Peru than Chile and is also on excellent terms with Bolivia.

Thus the two most likely wars in which Argentina might become involved would be a war against Brazil or a war against Chile. In case Argentina were at war with Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay might become involved and the most probable alliances which would take place would be Paraguay with Brazil and Uruguay doubtful. In case Argentina became involved in war with Chile, Peru and Bolivia would most probably join Argentina thus isolating Chile.

From Ruth T. ...
MA Buenos Aires

Report No 3734

Date December 13, 1926

G-2 Report

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ARGENTINA (Combat)

Subject: Military Alliances and
Agreements.

(a) Military Allies.

There are no international discords nor disputes in which Argentina is concerned. Nor has she taken any favorable or unfavorable stand with or against any countries in disputes such as Tacna-Arica and the Bolivian-Paraguayan boundary question. Argentina's general aims are preponderance and to be the leader in South American Affairs and all her doctrines and policies are so fashioned. She resents any outside power taking a hand in arbitration of South American disputes. Especially is she jealous of the United States influence and recently lined herself up at Havana against policies of the United States though the latter was followed by the other 19 Latin American States in the VI Pan American Conference.

In South America it is believed Argentina has only one probable enemy and that is Brazil.

In a War between Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay would probably endeavor to remain neutral and Paraguay would be inclined to go with Brazil. Chile would be afraid to enter against Argentina on account of the hatred of Peru and possibly Bolivia would go against her. In case of trouble or disputes between Brazil and Uruguay or Paraguay, Argentina would certainly take the part of the latter countries. The neutrality or favoring of Argentina by Paraguay and more especially by Uruguay would be insisted on by Argentina even to the extent of War. Likewise Brazil no doubt would side with either of the above countries in case they had trouble with Argentina.

In case of War in the West between Chile and Peru, it is more probable that Argentina would remain neutral. Peru is now making much propaganda in this country to secure the good will of Argentina in the Tacna-Arica dispute. Argentina however has taken no stand but it is believed she prefers to see Peru or Bolivia have Tacna Arica than Chile. In a War between Argentina and Chile, Peru no doubt would come in to secure the disputed territory and Bolivia might become involved on the side of Argentina if she thought she could secure a sea port.

As to an invasion from over-seas of the South American countries, it is hard to conceive a European invasion. Argentina it may be remembered lead South America in driving out the Spaniards and sent armies as far north as Peru on such missions. Certainly if the United States should have occasion to intervene in any South American country even as far North as the Caribbean Sea, there would be a great Anti-U.S. movement here. Some of the yellow journals are now talking of organizing a body of volunteers to aid Sandino. Nothing, of course, will come of that.

Source: Records in Military Attache's Office.

From: M.A. Argentina *C. J. Anderson* Report No. 3883 April 21, 1928

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HEADQUARTERS PANAMA CANAL DEPARTMENT.
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.
Quarry Heights, Canal Zone.

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Feb. 2, 1927.

SUBJECT: Anti-American Activities.

TO: The Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
War Department General Staff,
Washington, D. C.

Argentina

1. Dr. Maximo Soto Hall, a noted editorial contributor to "La Prensa", reputed as the leading newspaper of South America, has been in Panama City for several days. His mission is supposed to be a promotion of closer commercial relations between Argentina and other Latin-American countries. While here, he has delivered several speeches, all Anti-American in character.

2. Dr. Hall has traveled extensively in the United States and it is reported that he once lectured in the School of Journalism of the Missouri University, Columbia, Missouri. He has also recently visited Cuba and is now preparing to leave for Colombia.

3. The attached report of his speech at the National Institute, night of January 31st, 1927, is rendered by a member of this office who was personally present during the delivery of his address.

W. A. Jones
W. A. JONES,
Major, General Staff,
A. C. of S., G-2.

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RECORD SECTION
M.I.D.

1 Incl.

Doctor Maximo Soto Hall, editor of "La Prensa" of Buenos Aires, Argentina, at a lecture made at the National Institute on the night of January 31, 1927, stated, after having given a brief of the industrial and economic history of Argentina as an introduction, that the Latin countries of America should join themselves into a strong union for their mutual protection against the "colossus of the North", and that a Christ, similar to The Christ of the Andes, should appear on the shores of "El Rio Bravo", pointing one hand to the North and the other to the South. The hand pointing to the North to restrain the "colossus" from farther interference in matters that should be settled by the Latin-American countries themselves, and that pointing to the South to remind the Latin countries that they are under the influence of the "colossus" and should unite themselves to combat the odious encroachments of the North American Republic.

Dr. Soto Hall cited the present Nicaraguan situation as an example of imperialism, and also as a means of adding weight to his argument of united resistance to the imperialistic tendencies of the United States. The Doctor stated that if the Latin-American countries had been united they would have been able to tell the United States to attend to their own affairs when they attempted, by military and naval force, to settle the Nicaraguan situation, and that they would have been able to arrive at a better solution than that done by using sailors and Marines as a diplomatic mission. Another instance mentioned was the "sad and distressing case of the dispute between Chile and Peru" which the United States, in their ignorance of Latin temperament, tried to settle in a high-handed manner, and which has been a grave reflection on the honor of both countries concerned.

The Doctor made an issue of the appearance of a Christ on the shores of "El Rio Bravo", and stated that until such a time as this Christ appeared there would not be a moment of contentment or safety for the Latin-American countries in which the "colossus of the North" had imperialistic designs. He further stated that when it was learned in Buenos Aires that the United States had landed Marines in Nicaragua, and the methods that were being used in settling the difficulty, that 50,000 people took part in an Anti-American demonstration, and that the people of the Latin-American countries would do well to emulate the example of Argentina.

All of the statements made by Dr. Soto Hall had a very telling effect upon the audience and each statement was greeted with much applause and comment, indicating that the message embodied in the lecture was in harmony with their own views. Later, about half an hour after the close of the lecture, groups collected on Central Avenue to discuss what had been said. In the majority of instances those that were discussing the lecture had not been present at the National Institute, and in consequence had a very exaggerated version of all the Doctor's statements. Some of them contended that Dr. Soto Hall had demanded that they arm themselves against the United States to protect their country from becoming a part of the United States, while others stated that the Doctor wanted them to join Argentina in a war against imperialism.

As a whole, the lecture of Dr. Soto Hall could be termed as being strictly Anti-American, and, in fact, the Doctor, in his opening remarks, stated that his lecture would be against the "Republic of North America".

Incl. #1

4-1 2657-L-88

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Present Legislature.

CONFIDENTIAL

The President of the Senate is a vice president of the nation, whose biography is given in another chapter. From his record it may be said that Gonzalez belongs body and soul to Irigoyen. Throughout the period of 18 to 28 he was used by Irigoyen for various purposes, as chief of the police of city, as Intervenor for the provinces, etc. The records of this office show that he was most probably the personal choice of Irigoyen for President, but due to strikes (1921) then in the Radical Party, a compromise was made. In that party with Alvarez as President and Gonzalez as Vice-President.

During the period 1922 to 1927 Gonzalez has remained true to his trust, at the present time he is among the northern provinces rallying and organizing "Personalistas".

(a) Leading Personalities:

Leocoldo Melo is an outstanding political figure in the Senate, he is spoken of daily in the news papers as an "Anti-Personalista" candidate for President. He was born in the Province of Entre Rios in 1869. Educated in Buenos Aires where in 1891 he took the degree of Advocate and Dr. of Laws at the University in that city. While he was still studying he became one of the first members of the Civic Union (now the Radical Party) and has been their candidate for City Councillor Governor of Entre Rios, Deputy and Senate: to the last two he was elected. In 1905 he was made Professor of Commercial Law in the University; in 1912 he was chosen member of the Council, and in 1918 he was unanimously elected Dean of the Law Faculty. He has been re-elected to his second term in the Senate which will not expire until 1924.

Juan Bautista Justo was born in 1868 in the City of Buenos Aires where he was educated at the National College and later at the University. In 1888 he received his degree as Medical Doctor. In 1904 he was appointed titular Professor of Surgery in the University of Buenos Aires. He has always been interested in politics and belongs to the Socialist Party. In 1912 he was elected Deputy of Congress for Buenos Aires and was re-elected in 1916 and also in 1920. His term expires in 1924. He edited, for some time, the Socialist paper "La Vanguardia".

Dr. Justo is the author of "Teoria y Practica de la Historia", Buenos Aires, 1909. "En los Estados Unidos" Buenos Aires 1910; "Estudios sobre la moneda" Buenos Aires 1911.

Delmar del Valle was born in the year 1882 in the Province of Buenos Aires. He was educated in that city, first at the National College and later at the University.

24-1

(c) Leading personalities: (contd.)

Dr. Alfred Sussini, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is a Medical Specialist, an Anti-Imperialist, Pro-Soviet and Pro-Russian. He has been a member of the Medical Party for many years and was elected Deputy in the year 1924. His term will expire in 1928. Dr. Sussini is about 45 years old, and he has in other lines acquired considerable fame and respect. In the medical profession he has been Professor and a lecturer in the University of Buenos Aires and in connection with his lecturing he has made some unusual contributions in surgery. Dr. Sussini is a strong Anti-Imperialist, or Medical Anti-Imperialist.

Antonio de la Torre was born in Buenos Aires in the year 1899 where he was educated and received his degree of Law and Doctor of Laws in the year 1918. From his youth he was a strong supporter of the Socialist Party and soon became a prominent member and undertook important work for the cause. He became editor of the newspaper "La Vanguardia", the official organ of the party, and General Secretary of the Socialist Party. In 1914 he was elected Deputy in Congress and was re-elected in 1918, 1922 and 1926.

Rep. ... Argentina.

April 12, 1927.

residence in 1911.

(c) Leading Personalities: (Contd.)

When in 1911, he was elected the second director of the Argentine Republic, he was elected to the following offices: "Minister of Education", "Minister of Agriculture", "Minister of Finance", "Minister of the Interior", "Minister of the Navy", "Minister of the Air Force", "Minister of the Army", "Minister of the Navy", "Minister of the Air Force", "Minister of the Army".

Dr. Arce was born in 1891 in the city of Cordoba, Argentina. He studied at the National College and later at the University of Cordoba. He was elected to the following offices: "Minister of Education", "Minister of Agriculture", "Minister of Finance", "Minister of the Interior", "Minister of the Navy", "Minister of the Air Force", "Minister of the Army". In 1911, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Interior". In 1913, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1915, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1917, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1919, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1921, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1923, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1925, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1927, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1929, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1931, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1933, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1935, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1937, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1939, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1941, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1943, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1945, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1947, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1949, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1951, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1953, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1955, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1957, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1959, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1961, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1963, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1965, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1967, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1969, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1971, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1973, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1975, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1977, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1979, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1981, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1983, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1985, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1987, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1989, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1991, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1993, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 1995, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 1997, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 1999, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 2001, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 2003, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 2005, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 2007, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 2009, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 2011, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 2013, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 2015, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 2017, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 2019, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army". In 2021, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Navy". In 2023, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Air Force". In 2025, he was elected to the office of "Minister of the Army".

Dr. Arce was born in the province of Buenos Aires in the year 1891 where he was educated and received his degree in Medicine in the year 1903. In 1907 he was appointed substitute professor of Clinical Surgery and in the same year was invited to occupy temporarily the chair of Descriptive Anatomy. In 1910 he was elected member of the Medical School Council. He was a member of the Upper Council when, in 1906, Dr. Arce passed a decree annulling all university authorities, and he was given the difficult task of reorganizing the Ministry of Medicine. Later he became titular professor of Clinical Surgery and a member of the City Council. Dr. Arce has published over seventy publications written for medical journals. He has served as editor for the "Gaceta de la Medicina". Dr. Arce is the leader of the Conservative Party. In 1908 he was elected to the Provincial Congress, and re-elected in 1911 and chosen President of the Chamber; in 1913 he was elected as a member of the National Congress and served there until 1915. In 1915 he was elected Deputy for Buenos Aires, which term expired in 1918.

Dr. Arce was born in Buenos Aires in 1891 where he was educated at the National College and later at the University where he studied Law. In 1911 he went to the United States and studied at the University of Illinois. He was an Argentine delegate to the International Students Conference in Rome, U.S. in 1913, after which he travelled in Europe. On his return to Buenos Aires he plunged into

From I.A. Argentina.

Report 3701a

April 12, 1927

1. Political Situation

Subject: Political Situation

1. Political Situation

Political Situation. The political situation in Argentina is characterized by a coalition of various groups, including the Radical Party, the Conservative Party, the Socialists, and the Democrats. The coalition is based on a common platform of economic and social reforms. The political situation is characterized by a coalition of various groups, including the Radical Party, the Conservative Party, the Socialists, and the Democrats. The coalition is based on a common platform of economic and social reforms.

2. Political Situation

The political situation in Argentina is characterized by a coalition of various groups, including the Radical Party, the Conservative Party, the Socialists, and the Democrats. The coalition is based on a common platform of economic and social reforms.

1. Political Situation

Political Anti-Organismists.
12.

Political Organismists.
4.

Political Unionists.
3.

Conservatives.
0.

Socialists.
2.

Democrats.
1.

Political Organismists.
13.

Unionists.
1.

Elections have been held within the last week in the provinces, one of which is Buenos Aires, which will change the situation in the legislature.

Conflict and Cooperation between Parties and Groups.

There has been practically no constructive legislation all through the present legislature for the reason that the organismists have blocked and voted against every measure proposed by the anti-organismists. The socialists are aligned with the organismists and in general cooperate with no party. The members of the other parties as a rule never propose

Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Report 3781a April 12, 1927.

1910

1910-1911
Subject: Present Legislation

(1) Political Constitution (Contd.)

and program of administration but without success in view of the action of the Personalistas. Many times when the combined forces of the Anti-personalistas and the other parties (except the Personalistas and Socialists) have reached an agreement to support a particular law, the Personalistas would walk out, and for days and weeks the lower house could not secure a quorum.

Sources:

Newspapers
Archives of "La Nacion"
Argentine of to-day by Parker.

NOTE: Three months is entirely too short for any one to understand the non-functioning of the Argentine Legislature. The Legislature convenes next month. This matter will be given very close attention and this chapter revised accordingly.

C. T. Robinson
From L.A. Argentina.

Report 3781a

April 12, 1927.

Present Legislature

The president of the Senate is the vice president of the Nation, whose biography is given in another chapter. From his record it may be said that Gonzalez belongs body and soul to Irigoyen. Throughout the period of '16 to '22 he was used by Irigoyen for various purposes, as chief of the Police of city, as Intervenor for the provinces, etc. The records of this office show that he was most probably the personal choice of Irigoyen for president, but due to strife (1921) then in the Radical party a compromise was made in that party with Alvear as President and Gonzalez as Vice-President.

During the period 1923 to 1927 Gonzalez has remained true to his trust, at the present time he is among the northern provinces rallying and organizing "Personalistas".

(a) Leading Personalities:

Leopoldo Melo is an outstanding political figure in the Senate, he is spoken of daily in the newspapers as an "Anti-Personalista" candidate for President. He was born in the Province of Entre Rios in 1869. Educated in Buenos Aires where in 1891 he took the degree of Advocate and Dr. of Laws at the University in that city. While he was still studying he became one of the first members of the Civic Union (now the Radical party) and has been their candidate for City Councillor Governor of Entre Rios, Deputy and Senate; to the last two he was elected. In 1905 he was made Professor of Commercial Law in the University; in 1910 he was chosen Member of the Council, and in 1920 he was unanimously elected Dean of the Law Faculty. He has been re-elected to his second term in the Senate which will not expire until 1934.

Juan Bautista Justo: was born in 1865 in the City of Buenos Aires where he was educated at the National College and later at the University. In 1888 he received his degree as Medical Doctor. In 1904 he was appointed Titular Professor of Surgery in the University of Buenos Aires. He has always been interested in Politics and belongs to the Socialist Party. In 1913 he was elected Deputy to Congress for Buenos Aires and was re-elected in 1916 and also in 1920. His term expires in 1928. He edited, for some time, the socialist paper "La Vanguardia".

Dr. Justo is the author of "Teoria y practica de la Historia", Buenos Aires, 1908. "En los Estados Unidos" Buenos Aires 1898; "Estudios sobre la moneda" Buenos Aires 1913.

Delfor del Valle: was born in the year 1882 in the Province of Buenos Aires. He was educated in that city, first at the National College and later at the University from which he received no degree. In 1887 he was elected Provincial Deputy for the Province of Buenos Aires. This post he occupied until 1890. In 1913 he was elected National Deputy for Buenos Aires being re-elected in 1916 and 1920. In 1922, he was elected to the Senate and his term expires in 1931. He is Editor in Chief of "La Epoca" which is an Irigoyenist newspaper here. Del Valle together with the Vice-President, are the leaders of the Irigoyen forces in the Senate.

3210.

Miguel Sussini: The Speaker of the House of Representatives is Miguel Sussini, an Anti-Personalista representative from Corrientes. He has been a member of the Radical party for many years and was elected Deputy in the year 1924. His term will expire in 1928. Dr. Sussini is about 45 years old, and he has in other lines acquired considerable fame and accomplishments. In the medical profession he has been Professor and lecturer in the University of Buenos Aires and in connection with his teaching he has made some unusual experiments in surgery. Dr. Sussini is a strong Anti-Irigoyenista, or Radical Anti-Personalista.

Jorge Raul Rodriguez: was born in the city of Rosario in 1887, and in early life became identified with the Radical Party. Several years previous to 1916 he was Secretary to the National Deputy R. Rumez, and was a member of the Radical Party in Santa Fe. Upon the death of Rumez in the year 1916, Rodriguez was elected National Deputy and in 1928 will complete his third term as member of the Lower House.

Antonio de Tomaso: was born in Buenos Aires in the year 1889 where he was educated and received his degree of Advocate and Doctor of laws in the year 1914. From his youth he was a strong supporter of the Socialist party and soon became a prominent member and undertook important work for the cause. He became editor of the newspaper "La Vanguardia", the official organ of the party, and General Secretary of the Socialist Party. In 1914 he was elected Deputy in Congress and was re-elected in 1918, 1922 and in 1926.

Enrique Dickmann: was born in 1874 in a Part of the Russian Empire now belonging to Finland. He came to Argentina when he was 18 years of age and worked as a laborer. After four years hard work in the country he came to the city in an effort to accomplish his early desire which was education and to enter public life. In 1901 he became a member of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, a post which he held for fourteen years after which he was elected a National Deputy for the Capital in the year 1914. He was reelected in 1916 and in 1920. For several years he had been studying in the National College and in the University of Buenos Aires where in 1904 he was granted the degree of Doctor of Medicine, after which he was made head of the Clinic of San Roque Hospital. He wrote for the press and was author of the following works: "Ideas e ideales", "Inmigracion y latifundio", "Democracia y socialismo". He acted as editor to the Socialist newspaper "La Vanguardia" during the years 1906, 1910 and 1918.

Julio A. Roca: was born in 1873 in the city of Cordoba. He was educated in Buenos Aires in the National College and later in the University where he received the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in the year 1895, after which he engaged in the practice of law. In 1904 he was elected National Deputy for Cordoba and served for three terms. In 1916 he was elected National Senator from the same province, and served one term. In 1928 he was elected as Deputy and his term expires in 1930. Roca is the head of the Democrata party in Cordoba, and at his instance there was convened in Cordoba on April 2nd, a convention of all parties except the Socialists and Radicals who had representations in the Lower House. The purpose of this convention was to organize and combine forces to prevent Irigoyen and his Personalistas party coming back to power next year. The details of this conference are recorded in the program annexed.

3210.

José Arce: was born in the province of Buenos Aires in the year 1881 where he was educated and received his degree of Doctor in the year 1903. In 1907 he was appointed substitute Professor of Clinical Surgery and in the same year was invited to occupy temporarily the chair of Descriptive Anatomy. In 1910 he was elected member of the Medical School Council. He was a member of the Upper Council when, in 1908, Irigoyen passed a decree annulling all University authorities, and he was given the difficult task of reorganizing the Faculty of Medicine. Later he became Titular Professor of Clinical Surgery and a member of the Faculty Council. Dr. Arce has published over seventy works; he has written much for medical journals. He also served as editor for the daily paper "La Tribuna". Dr. Arce is the leader of the Conservative Party. In 1908 he was elected to the Provincial Congress, and re-elected in 1912 and chosen President of the Chamber; in 1913 he was elected as a member of the National Congress and served there until 1920. In 1924 he was elected Deputy for Buenos Aires, and his term expires in 1928.

Diego Luis Molinari: Was born in Buenos Aires in 1889 where he was educated at the National College and later at the University where he studied Law. In 1911 he went to the United States and studied at the University of Illinois. He was Argentina's delegate to the International Students' Conference in Ithaca N.Y. in 1913, after which he travelled in Europe. On his return to Buenos Aires he plunged into politics. In 1915 he became President of the Radical Students' Club. Upon the Radical victory of 1916 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He has written several works mostly historical, or critics on historical works. He was elected Deputy in 1924 and his term expires in 1928. He belongs to the Radical Personalista party.

(b) Political Composition:

The political composition of the last Congress is as follows:-

<u>No. in Senate</u>	<u>No. in House</u>
<u>Radical Anti-Personalistas.</u>	
12.	25.
<u>Radical Personalistas.</u>	
4.	68.
<u>Radical Undefined</u>	
3.	---
<u>Conservatives.</u>	
8.	22.
<u>Socialists.</u>	
2.	20.
<u>Democrats.</u>	
---	9.
<u>Liberal Autonomistas.</u>	
---	13.
<u>Vacant</u>	
1.	1.

3310.
3310.

Elections have been held within the last week in two of the Provinces, one of which is Buenos Aires, which will change these figures in a few numbers but will not affect the General situation in the Legislature.

Conflict and Cooperation between parties and groups.

There has been practically no constructive Legislature all through the present legislation for the reason that the Personalistas have blocked and voted against every measure supported by the Anti-Personalistas. The Socialists are a block unto themselves and in general cooperate with no party. The members of the other parties as a rule favor proposals and programs of administration but without success in view of the actions of the Personalistas. Many times when the combined forces of the Anti-Personalistas and the other parties, (except the Personalistas and Socialists) have reached an agreement to support a particular law, the Personalistas would walk out, and for days and weeks the Lower House could not secure a quorum.

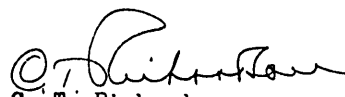
Sources:

Newspapers
Archives of "La Nación"
Argentine of to-day by Parker

Note: Three months is entirely too short for any one to understand the non functioning of the Argentine Legislature. The Legislature convenes next month. This matter will be given very close attention and this chapter revised accordingly.

Report No. 3281

Buenos Aires, April 13th, 1937.


C. T. Richardson
Major G. S. M. A.

NO 2657 2 89
4-18-27

3610.

POLITICAL

Pre-Election Intrigue, Campaign, Activities and Methods.

The Radical Anti-Personalista Party have issued their program, and selected as candidates Melo and Gallo. (Biographical sketches in Who's Who card file.)

The various Provincial parties reported under 3700 as meeting in Cordoba on April 2nd, will meet again on May 31st. It is anticipated that they will name Melo - Gallo.

The Socialists have not had their Convention. Their organization laws prohibit their naming a candidate not of their faith. As they are more inclined to the Anti-Personalista than to the Personalista, the former hope they will not name a candidate and thus give silent encouragement to their party to vote Melo - Gallo ticket.

It was noted elsewhere that there was a slight disturbance during Provincial Elections in Mendoza. The Personalistas claimed that they were denied their full suffrage rights and asked for intervention.

Socialist Deputy Enrique Dickman plans to introduce in the Chamber of Deputies, which convenes today, a resolution to intervene in the Province of Buenos Aires to reorganize the Executive and Judicial Branches. He gives as his reason gambling such as roulette, etc., at Mar del Plata, etc. Buenos Aires is now under an Irigoyenist administration. That party claims that such a project is simply a political manoeuvre to secure control of the Buenos Aires Government by the Anti-Irigoyenistas previous to elections.

It is reported that the Irigoyenists are becoming alarmed at the alleged unjust treatment in Mendoza and now the project for Buenos Aires, and are threatening revolutionary action, similar to what occurred in 1890, if they are denied their full rights at the polls.

Notes:

Partial report only. Additions will be sent in from time to time during the year, as political schemes develop incident to Presidential election.

Sources:

Daily Newspapers.

Report No. 3738

Buenos Aires May 3rd, 1927.

C. T. Richardson
Major G. S. M. A.

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1927

G-2 Report

4-1-26 2657-L-89
3610 2

ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: National Elections:

Pre-Election intrigue, campaign, activities and methods.

The Radical Anti-Personalista party have issued their program, and selected as candidates Melo and Gallo. (Biographical sketches in Melo's Who card file.)

The various provincial parties reported under 3700 as meeting in Cordoba on April 2nd., will meet again on May 31st. It is anticipated that they will name Melo - Gallo.

The Socialists have not had their Convention. Their organization laws prohibit their naming a candidate not of their faith. As they are more inclined to the Anti-Personalistas than to the Personalistas, the former hope they will not name a candidate and thus give silent encouragement to their party to vote Melo-Gallo ticket.

It was noted elsewhere that there was a slight disturbance during Provincial Elections in Mendoza. The Personalistas claimed that they were denied their full suffrage rights and asked for intervention.

Socialist Deputy Enrique Dickmann plans to introduce in the Chamber of Deputies, which convenes today, a resolution to intervene in the Province of Buenos Aires to reorganize the Executive and Judicial Branches. He gives as his reason gambling such as roulette, etc., at Mar del Plata, etc. Buenos Aires is now under an Irigoyenist administration. That party claims that such a project is simply a political manoeuvre to secure control of the Buenos Aires Government by the Anti-Irigoyenistas previous to elections.

It is reported that the Irigoyenists are becoming alarmed at the alleged unjust treatment in Mendoza and now the project for Buenos Aires, and are threatening revolutionary action, similar to what occurred in 1890, if they are denied their full rights at the polls.

NOTE: Partial report only. Additions will be sent in from time to time during the year, as political schemes develop incident to Presidential election.

Sources:

Daily Newspaper.

C. R. ...
From M.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3788. May 3, 1927.

C-2 Report

4-1 1927 2657-89
3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Election
(add)

Pre-Election intrigue, Campaign activities and Methods:

The various Provincial parties reported under 3700 as meeting in Cordoba on April 2nd, did not re-convene on May 31st as scheduled nor have they convened to date. The Anti-personalistas expect them to adopt the Melo-Gallo ticket. There is some bickering among the different groups. From the democrats of Santa Fe comes the report that they are dissatisfied and feel the ticket should be Gallo-Melo. Other provincial parties are holding out for election plums of different kinds.

The Socialist parties who would really hold the balance of power in the electoral college between Irigoyen forces and the others (should they combine) has been split wide open. Their project to intervene in the Province of Buenos Aires was introduced in the National Chamber of Deputies. The resolution stated that the intervention was to reorganize the Government and prohibit gambling of all kinds. The Conservatives of the Province of Buenos Aires were in favor so as to oust the Irigoyen Government and get into power themselves if possible. The Anti-Personalistas were ready to support intervention in order to secure support from the Conservative party for the Melo-Gallo ticket; they themselves expected to take over the Provincial Government and organize the employees to support Melo-Gallo.

The Irigoyen forces were not asleep, over night the provincial Legislature abolished gambling of all descriptions at horse racing, lotteries, roulette, etc. Putting out of work six or seven thousand people and causing a huge deficit in the Provincial revenues.

Although everyone knows and admits that such action was political expediency only and will last only so long as is necessary (elections next April), the socialists in secret session voted not to support their intervention measure. Cabrillo, a National Socialist Deputy denounced such tactics and among other things said: "1st. Intervention should not have been proposed as sufficient grounds did not exist to justify it under the Constitution; 2nd. After deciding to vote intervention then the party should have continued their program." Such independence of thought and expression was unheard of in the ranks of the well disciplined socialist party. The old party leaders, Justo, Enrique Dickmann, etc. proposed to expel Cabrillo from the party. Antonio de Tomaso and some others came to his aid and the result is the party is apparently permanently divided on the subject of free speech, with the men named above leading each division.

(Irigoyen)

Just how much the "silent man of Calle Brazil" has done to bring about the above situations cannot be definitely as-

From: M.L. Argentina. Report No. 3813. July 20, 1927

Subject: National Election
(74d)

certained. All admit that no one can equal his understanding of the human elements of this country. He is the idol of the working men. He is never interviewed, rarely appears in public and I have never heard him make a speech.

Political experts state if elections were held now Irigoyen would be elected. That will happen by next March, no prediction can be made. It is predicted however that if Irigoyen is elected it will take twenty years for the Government to recover financially from his administration.

From: M.A. Argentina.

July 20, 1927.

Report

RECEIVED
NOV 17 1927
1010
9

RECEIVED (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

DD. (Pre-Election intrigue, campaign activities and methods)

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. DEC 8 1927

The convention scheduled for Cordoba on May 31st was finally held on August 6th. This convention consisted of delegates from the conservative and provincial parties and they proceeded to form an organization known as "Confederation of the parties of the Right". The Province of Buenos Aires, the Federal Capital and Salta, San Juan, San Luis, Cordoba, Corrientes, Tucuman, Santiago del Estero and La Rioja, were represented. They voted to adhere to the Melo-Gallo ticket.

The Socialists met and published a platform - as described by one paper; "It contains much that is old and little that is new. What is good is not new and what is new is not good". They have not named a candidate and it is believed they will not. Their members will be left to vote as they please which should help the Melo-Gallo ticket.

All political experts say that the present race will be the closest in the history of the country. The balance of power seems now to rest with the Province of Cordoba. The Province of Buenos Aires is Irigoyen's stronghold; the Federal Capital is likewise, though if Melo-Gallo secure the Socialist vote, the Irigoyen majority will be cut considerably; Mendoza if given an honest chance would probably go for Irigoyen, however the corrupt Lencinas party is in control and they, it is reported have sold out to the Anti-Personalistas.

Entre Rios and Corrientes are the bulwarks of Melo while Gallo will bring Catamarca and Jujuy into line. In some of the smaller Provinces Irigoyen seems to be losing ground. Santa Fe is doubtful and with Cordoba will probably decide the election. The Irigoyenists have not named their candidate for Governor of Cordoba, but it will likely be the present Federal Vice President Epidio Gonzalez. In Santa Fe neither has the Provincial Candidate been named by Irigoyen.

The Provincial Election in Salta takes place this month and in Tucuman in January; it is believed the Irigoyenists desire to know the results in those Provinces before deciding about Santa Fe.

The Irigoyen forces have no platform and do not enter into any debates on public questions. They have an excellent organization all over the country and it is preached continually to their followers that Irigoyen is the finest man in the world and his decision will always be correct. He has become the idol of the lower middle and lower classes and he in turn understands perfectly the "Criollo" mind and just how to appeal to it.

Reference the remark in No. 3813 that it would take 20 years for the country to recover financially from the Presidential administration of Irigoyen. This would be due to graft by his followers in all Government positions from top to bottom.

From: H.A. Argentina. Report 3845 Nov. 17th, 1927

Report

3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

Add. (Pre-Election intrigue, campaign activities and methods)

Irigoyen himself is honest but the class of men who surround him will do the harm. It will be a Government House where "all will be bought and sold".

Rumors are heard quoting General Justo that Irigoyen if elected will never serve which some people have taken to mean that a "Coups" by the Army may be expected. Many refer to Justo as the Mussolini of Argentina. The Minister of War is a very ambitious and a very strong man, however the history of this country does not lead one to believe any such action probable - whatever the result of election may be in March, that result will stand - at least till the civilians rise up against it as they did in 1890.

Sources:

Daily Newspapers
Current Conversation.

ed. [Signature]
From: H.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3845.

November 17th, 1927

G-2 Report

4-1 26578-89
1928
MAR 5
3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. MAR 7- 1928
(Pre-election intrigue, campaign activities and methods.)

During the past three months elections have been held in several provinces for provincial officers and National Congress.

Salta This province held a provincial election in December; the results were: Irigoyen 23 electors, the Anti-Irigoyenists 26, and 4 votes in one precinct went to a third party. The third party has promised to combine with the Irigoyenists when the electoral college meets on February 22nd and thus put that party in power. The majority in this province has 7 votes in the electoral college.

Tucumán. This province held its provincial elections in January and went almost 2 to 1 for Irigoyen. This province will give him 12 votes in the national electoral college.

Santa Fé. Much work has been done by both parties in Santa Fé and no little blood has been shed in the political demonstrations. Both parties before the election were sure of success. The elections were held on February 5th and from the results already received Irigoyen's party has elected its provincial Governors by a large majority. The majority in this province will carry about 28 votes to the electoral college.

The Federal Capital and the Province of Buenos Aires are conceded by all to the Irigoyen forces in the National Election, so:

Federal Capital	46
Province Buenos Aires	59
Tucumán	12
Salta	7
Santa Fé	28
Total.....	152

which seem practically certain for Irigoyen.

The next fight is in Córdoba which both parties are again claiming. Should Irigoyen secure that with 28 for the majority, then he would only have to secure 9 which he will more than do from the minority in the remaining provinces.

Córdoba elections will be held on the 11 of March.

The National Elections on April 1st. The results above are only the provincial ones, however it puts in charge the Irigoyen regime and makes the results in the National Election only more sure.

The Irigoyen candidates for President and Vice President have not been named. Unquestionably Irigoyen will

From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 3863 Feb. 7th, 1928

IRIGUIEN (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

(Continued)

head his ticket and his party does not seem to care who will be Vice President. It is absolutely a one-man party. While as a matter of fact the Vice President is very important in this case since he is between 75 and 80 years old and six years (term of President) makes the chances very good that the Vice President will come into power. The Vice President will probably be selected from Cordoba.

The socialists will not figure in the National Elections. The Socialists, Regular, did name candidates Lapetto and Bravo. The Socialists, Independents (See 3610- No. 3613) have named no candidates and their leader stated that they would support whoever offered them more. Regardless of how they vote, even should they combine against Irigoyen, it is doubtful if they could stop the Irigoyen landslide.

Activities bearing on disruption of public peace and disorder.

The Campaign for President is being characterized by a number of violent incidents in different parts of the country.

In Tucuman about a month ago there was a shooting affray during a political demonstration with one life lost.

During November in the Province of Mendoza there was a shooting affray between a party of Irigoyenistas and the Provincial police which lasted about five hours. The police finally killed three and captured four of the other party.

In December in the Province of Buenos Aires, a Provincial Deputy shot and killed a local municipal official (of opposing political views).

During the same month in the same province a police official was waylaid and shot, politics again being suggested.

In Cordoba on January 22 there was a political demonstration at night. Due to a storm the electric lights went out for a short time and a revolver shooting affray started between the Irigoyenistas and Anti-Irigoyenistas.

In Santa Fe during the last week in January the Governor of that Province wired the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires that he was informed that the Irigoyenistas expected to raid Santa Fe with armed men against points which they feared might go against them in the Elections of February 5th. This Province seems now to have daily occurrences of shooting and killing. On January 30th a local policeman was shot dead during a political demonstration, and a second was killed at another place on January 31st. On February 1st at a small city, Villa Constitución in the same province, a party of Irigoyenistas were making a political demonstration with

From: M... Argentina. Report No. 3863 February "

3-1 Report

1910

1910 (Political)

Subject: National Elections

(Continued)

speeches from a motor car and the police of the town fired into them with the result that four were killed and several wounded.

One of the dead was a retired Army officer (Irigoyenista) and the other three, policemen. Two of the Irigoyenistas were National Deputies who were arrested but set at liberty in virtue of their Parliamentary privileges.

Such to the surprise of everyone the election on February 5th in Santa Fé Province was not witnessed by any great disturbances. In three or four precincts there was some shooting and a total of two deaths and several stabbings reported.

So far as the Military Attaché has been able to learn no legal action has been taken against any of the above murderers. Apparently it is always the dead man's fault in this country.

The Presidential nominee and his friends from the beginning of the campaign have been trying to persuade President Alvear to intervene in the Province of Buenos Aires, take over the Irigoyen Government there and organize the Province to vote for Melo-Gallo. This would not only secure electors from Melo-Gallo but far more important it would cut off the supply of funds for the National Irigoyen Campaign. The effect of the latter is clearly visible in Santa Fé. Melo being interviewed after the election in Santa Fé, said:

"It has given me much pleasure to have been able to be in Santa Fé on the Sunday of February 5th; first to be with my political friends in trying times and secondly to appreciate by documented proofs that have been put before my eyes, the barefaced pressure exerted on the voters by delegations coming from and paid by the Government of Buenos Aires. These delegations have been located in Santa Fé for many weeks and their proselyte work has been assisted by well known National Employees from different services in said Province. I feel that with such barefaced widespread electoral corruption the political state of affairs has become a very serious one for the country."

Sources:

Daily Newspapers.

Conversations with Argentine citizens.

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 3863.

February 7th, 1928

G-2 Report FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
ARGENTINA (Political)

6-1
APR 26 1935
2657-L 89
12
EXHIBIT 100-1-1

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(5) Current Situations.

ELECTIONS IN PROVINCE OF ENTRE RIOS

Elections for the executive, legislative and municipal offices were held on March 17th throughout the Province of Entre Rios, without incident.

The principal contending parties were the Union Civica Radical and the National Democrats. The Union Civica Radical Irigoyenists (a dissenting faction of the Union Civica Radical) also presented candidates as well as did the Socialists, Communists and National Labor Party.

An overwhelming victory was obtained by the Union Civica Radical of 54,087 votes as against the 43,655 cast for the National Democrats, 7,681 for the Union Civica Radical Irigoyenist contingent, 1306 for the Socialists, 267 for the Communists, and 226 for the National Laborites.

This election is certainly significant of the trend of politics in Argentina at the present time and has every chance to continue to rally new adherents to the cause of the Union Civica Radical as against the National Democratic Party, which is losing adherents daily on account of dimming respect for the Conservatives and because it is felt that a change in government is indicated and deserved.

The Union Civica Radical is reuniting and gathering strength. All indications at the present time point to the coming into power of the Radical Party and in the elections to be held in 1937, there is every possibility that ex-President Marcelo T. Alvear will be the party's candidate, in which case he might again be elected president.

Dr. Alvear is displaying remarkable energy in the strenuous propaganda work being carried out by his party throughout the country. There is little doubt that his personality exercised considerable influence in the decisive victory obtained in Entre Rios.

Source of Information: Personal contacts and Press.



FREDERICK D. SHARP,
Captain, G.S.
Military Attaché. Report No. 5130 March 28, 1935.

February 26, 1936.

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

6-1 N 2657-L 89

WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA - Political

Subject: Pre-Election Activities.

Several tentative efforts have been made in Parliament by members of the Conservative Party who offer the terms of the Saenz Pena Universal Compulsory Suffrage Law, in order to obtain the qualifying vote. These initiatives, owing to the composition of Parliament have not met with success, and are held in abeyance. Never-the-less, they have been able to put through a very important alteration by which the votes of the minority in the electoral colleges are not taken into account. This measure practically insures the success of the present Government in the future presidential elections.

At the present moment the most likely candidate to succeed President Justo is Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz, present Minister of Finance, and ostensibly President Justo's candidate. It is said that in private life General Justo and Dr. Ortiz are partners in business. Dr. Ortiz is the official candidate and will be backed by the political forces of the Concordancia, which is the coalition made up of the National Democratic Party (Conservative), the Anti-Personalist Radicals, Independent Socialists and several independent ones. Up to the present Dr. Ortiz seems to be the only firm candidate but it is quite possible that once the elections have taken place the electoral college may reserve a surprise.

The nominations for the vice-presidency, so far, is undecided. The Conservatives are sparing no efforts and bringing to bear all their influence with the President in order to obtain the nomination of a member of their party, the most talked of candidate at present being Dr. Patron Costa, provisional President of the Senate.

Dr. Leopoldo Melo, ex-Minister of the Interior, is still a possible candidate for the Presidency, having the support of several factions of the Anti-Personalist Radicals of the interior.

Dr. Marcelo Alvear is still the only candidate of the Union Civica Radical, but up to the present there does not seem to be much chance of this Party's success.

President Justo has recently made a tour of the northern provinces. The purpose of this tour was evidently one of political exploration, its object being to bind together and organize the Anti-Personalist Radical Party in those Provinces, as several of the leaders are becoming restless and trying to use their local influence in exerting pressure in order to play a leading part in the final decision of the presidential succession.

The political outlook, in general, is peaceable, and everything seems to point to what is termed the Directed Politics, meaning by this the politics as directed by President Justo.

Source of Information: Personal Contacts.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker
Lt. Col., Inf.
Military Attache

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5569

Date: April 29, 1937

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

6-1 2657-L 89

15
WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report

3700-b

ARGENTINA - Political

Subject: Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups.

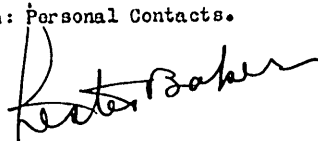
The internal situation of the Civica Radical Union has become disorganized during the last year. A large number of its components are not satisfied with the policy of Dr. Alvear as leader, in as much as the latter is inclined to favor a rapprochement with the actual Government, whereas the irreconcilables insist in a stronger opposition, advocating the nonconcurrence to the polls, as they claim there are no guarantees. This movement is becoming stronger daily and is undermining the unity of the party, with the possibility that it may provoke Dr. Alvear's retirement, which already has been suggested, and consequently lessened the possibilities of this party cooperating with the actual Government.

The Socialist Party has lately suffered from internal dissension, and their strength as a party has been greatly diminished.

The organization known as the Frente Popular, which was formed last year by the Radicals, Socialists and Progressive Democrats, has not obtained great success, especially as the last mentioned, whose headquarters are in the Province of Santa Fe, have been completely defeated in the last election held in that Province. Their leader Dr. Lisandro De la Torre having resigned and retired from active politics, the remaining legislators of this party still give their support in Parliament to the Radicals.

The Presidential campaign is now about to enter its final stage, although there still exists a lot of uncertainty among all party leaders, awaiting the final word of President Justo on this matter.

Source of Information: Personal Contacts.



Lester Baker
Lt. Col., Inf.
Military Attache

6-1 2657-L-89
NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

G-2 Report.

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1610-a

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Pre-election activities.

In order to understand politics in national elections in Argentina - and in other South American countries for that matter - it is necessary to realize that election campaigns are waged on an entirely personal basis. There are never any particularly defined issues or real platforms as they are understood in the United States and northern Europe. And, another point, the electors and followers in campaigns look upon the whole procedure, for the most part, as a sort of fiesta. For instance: when Dr. Roberto Ortiz and Dr. Ramon Castillo were opening their campaign for president and vice-president, respectively, as candidates on the coalition ticket - National Democrat and Anti-Personalist Radical parties - at Luna Park a week ago Dr. Ortiz had his overcoat stolen, and Dr. Castillo had his pocket picked while saving his watch and chain from effusive congratulators following his speech of acceptance.

The Coalition candidates left this week on their first campaign trip in the interior, and Dr. Alvear, Radical candidate, has started his second trip. The provinces of Santa Fé and Tucumán since July 1st have shown considerable strength for Alvear who seems to be becoming a more formidable opponent to the "government" candidates than was at first expected. The choice lies without question between Ortiz and Alvear. The Socialists with Dr. Nicolás Repetto and Dr. Arturo Orgaz as candidates are conducting a vigorous campaign but, in all political calculations, will run a poor third.

Ortiz and Castillo are running on a platform which is described as the same as that on which President Justo was elected, with the deletion of the planks which have already been fulfilled. Direct election of the president and votes for women are two main points.

La Prensa recently deplored the "worst kinds of fraud" which had been exhibited in elections in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fé during the past two years, and held out little hope for betterment in the September presidential elections. Buenos Aires Herald (English language) says that the only president who was elected with a definite programme was Dr. Saenz Peña (1910) who promised electoral reform. It says further: "Candidates in these climes do not hanker to tie themselves down by platform promises. They all desire to get the idea across that they will deal with every problem as it comes up with supreme intelligence."

Source: Press, personal contacts.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies mailed July 17th.

W/

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5616.

July 13, 1937.

G-2 Report.

6-1 18 2657-L-89
AUG 18 1937
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ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Pre-election Activities.

The National Election has been set for Sunday, September 5, 1937, and the two principal candidates, Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz of the "Concordancia" group and Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear who represents the Union Civica Radical are both campaigning in the interior of Argentina.

In the meantime Congress is in a stagnant state with important bills still unconsidered through lack of quorums almost daily. In the five-month period of legislative life much important legislation was to have been considered, but half of that five months has already passed and little of importance has been accomplished. Urgent matters presented or re-presented by the Executive include the purchase of the Cordoba Central Railway, the Argentine Transandine Railway, the assets and interests in the Republic of the Standard Oil Company. Three other matters of importance sponsored by the present administration are: the agreement entered into a year ago (which requires Congressional sanction) by the Executive with Sociedad Anonima Transradio Internacional for the formation of a new entity under the name of Telecomunicaciones Internacionales de la Nacion Argentina to be operated with state intervention and under state control by directors appointed by the Government; reform of existing antiquated railway legislation whereby combinations in administration and operating would reduce working costs; and the intensive land settlement scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. Observers hope for little legislative action following the elections, although the new president does not take office until February 20, 1938.

Various organs of the press, with election only six weeks away, are counselling the electorate to do its duty on election day, and exhorting for fair elections, both in the Spanish and English journals. After declaring that no government which gets into power through imposing dishonesty at the polls can be beneficial to the country, the outspoken Buenos Aires Herald prophesies: "If there is to be corruption in September next, there will be a dictatorship, or something very like it, shortly afterwards. That means the denial of freedom of thought, of word and of deed. It means a step backward."

Of the two leading candidates, Dr. Ortiz has the general support of the business community because of his sound ideas and convictions while minister of finance. He is the candidate of the Concordancia which is a coalition of three political parties, viz: Partido Democratica Nacional, Union Civica Radical Antipersonalista, and Partido Socialista Independiente. It came into being to prosecute the campaign which resulted in the election of General Justo in 1932.

Dr. Alvear was Ambassador to France from 1917 to 1922, and during the latter year was elected President of Argentina for the period 1922-1928. He represents Union Civica Radical of which party he has been a member and leader from early manhood. He is now sixty-nine years of age. Dr. Alvear represents a strong unit of voters in the capital which he is expected to carry by many observers. His strength outside is not considered important.

Source: local press.

Original & 5 copies mailed July 24th.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attache.

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

6-1

AUG 18 1937

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2657-L-89

WAR DEPARTMENT
3610-a

G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Pre-election Activities;
Two leading candidates.

Ref: No. 5619.

2657-L-89/17

RECEIVED 6/2 W.D. AUG 14 1937

The two leading candidates for the presidential election of Sunday, September 5, 1937, are Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz who represents the Concordancia, coalition of three political groups, and Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear, former president, who is candidate for Union Civica Radical.

DOCTOR ROBERTO M. ORTIZ



Dr. Ortiz backing is made up of the group (No. 5619) which placed President Justo in power in 1932. Dr. Ortiz graduated in law at University of Buenos Aires in 1909. He was elected a Deputy in 1920 and was active in legislative matters. He was Minister of Public Works in President Alvear cabinet. He was Minister of Finance in the Justo cabinet until he resigned in June to become presidential candidate.

~~Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear~~

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5621.

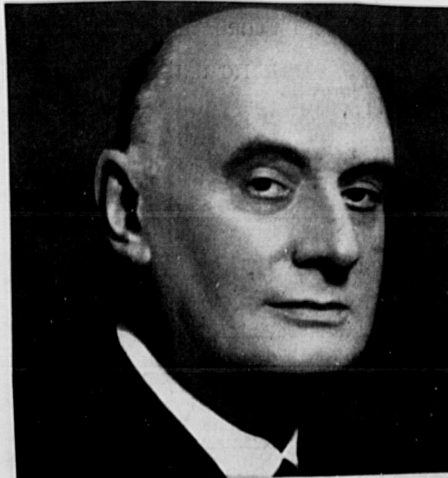
July 20, 1937.

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G-2 Report.

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DOCTOR MERCELO T. DE ALVEAR



Dr. Alvear was president of the Republic from 1922 to 1928. Previously he had been a Deputy and also Ambassador to France. He was born in the city of Buenos Aires on October 4, 1868. He has been a leading figure in his political party since early manhood.

Source: Local press.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attache.

Original & 5 copies mailed July 24th.

6. 1937
2657-1-89
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G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Pre-election Activities.

Ref: Report No. 5625 & previous.

With the presidential elections less than a month away the attitude of apathy in the nation's capital continues unchanged. Only once or twice weekly does either the Chamber or the Senate have enough members present to transact business due to the fact that so many legislators are busy looking after their political defenses in their home provinces. Even the newspapers of Buenos Aires continue to print little news on pre-election activities outside of dispatches from the interior where the candidates are campaigning and where the speakers of each party constantly have "rousing welcomes."

The apathy in the nation's capital has two possible explanations, in the opinion of political observers: (1) the business community and the electors generally are satisfied with the present regime and see no reason for not continuing it in the persons of Ortiz and Castillo, the Concordancia candidates; (2) it is considered that whatever opposition to the Government ticket - the candidates just mentioned - will be thoroughly squelched by Government politicians so that there is no chance of any change in the matter of electing the Alvear - Radical - ticket, so why get excited?

The Concordancia candidates are committed to a continuance of the policy of the present regime which has brought unexpected prosperity to Argentina with a huge increase in exports, and which also has enhanced the international financial standing of the country through the liquidating of much of its foreign debt in both the New York and London markets. Its bonds in the two markets mentioned stand higher than those of any other South American country - in several instances they are quoted above par.

Under the so-called Saenz Peña election law - thus named because it was enacted during his administration in 1912 - there is obligatory manhood suffrage in Argentina. This means that everyone inscribed on the election rolls must cast his ballot; failure to do so results in being haled before the court and fines imposed. This law has received and is receiving again in the present campaign much criticism because of the fact there is no literacy test for the exercise of suffrage. Electors who can neither read nor write are thus on a par in the voting with the educated.

As there is such an amount of illiteracy in the country this can, and does, lead to much corruption at the polls. It is said that the procedure is as follows: illiterate voters arriving are checked off on the rolls, handed a ballot, told that is what they are to cast, to seal it in the envelope and deposit in in the ballot box. It is described as quite simple and an efficacious method of securing majorities, by those who have witnessed its workings.

From N/A Argentina.
W/

Report No. 5631.

August 10, 1937.

C-2 Report.

3610-a

There are 120,000 Government employes in the Federal service in Buenos Aires. In the last election only 30,000 of these voted for the Government candidates, 90,000 throwing their votes to the Justo ticket which was elected. Observers this election are of the opinion that these 120,000 will go almost as a unit to the Ortiz ticket so as to be sure of their jobs in what will be, virtually, a continuation of the present regime. These employes are all political appointees - there is no civil service in Argentina Government departments.

Figures issued last week by the Electoral Register Office of the Ministry of the Interior shows that the number of voters inscribed as of June 30th was 2,768,713 who will vote at 12,515 polling places on September 5th for president and vice-president. In the Federal Capital 487,679 voters are registered; in the adjoining province of Buenos Aires are 793,686 voters. The province of Santa Fe stands next with a registration of 345,592, and then comes Córdoba with 306,665. Four other provinces have more than 100,000 voters: Entre Rios 172,166, Tucumán 126,074, Santiago del Estero 106,780 and Corrientes 116,685. Other provinces range from La Rioja with 22,846 to Mendoza with 97,628.

There are 370 electors who will finally choose the President, a majority of one vote, total 186, being needed to elect. The party carrying any province has all the electors of that province but when it comes to the meeting of the electoral college some trades may be expected. In other words, the electors may vote for the man heading the ticket, Ortiz on the Concordancia ticket for instance, but not for his running-mate, Castillo; instead they may vote for another for vice-president and so have an entirely different set-up in the final result.

At the present moment it is not considered possible that Repetto on the Socialist ticket will carry a single province thus leaving the electoral fight between Ortiz and Alvear on the other two tickets. Observers believe Alvear may carry the province of Buenos Aires, but not the Federal capital which, with the government employes, seems safe for Ortiz. Commissioned officers of both the army and navy have votes in the election but non-coms and privates are barred.

Source: Press,
Personal contacts.

Lester Baker

Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed August 13th.

NO ORIGINATOR'S PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS

6-1

1937

RECEIVED
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AUG 2

3610-a

G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA- Political.

Subject: Pre-election activities;
Prospects for result.

Ref: Report No. 5619 and previous.

With only a few days more than a month to go before the electors of Argentina go to the polls to choose their president and vice-president for the coming term of office - the elections are to be held on Sunday, September 5th - the local press is complaining that there seems to be little election enthusiasm. The leading candidates - Ortiz, Alvear and Repetto - are devoting their energies to the electorate in the provinces almost exclusively and especially to Cordoba and Santa Fe whose large populations will have an important voice in the final result.

It is generally conceded by political observers that ex-President Alvear who heads the Radical ticket will carry the city of Buenos Aires, so that is perhaps why the other candidates are not, so far, devoting much time to the city and why, perhaps, the campaign seems lethargic in the capital. Press reports indicate that there is much more excitement in the provinces whenever any one of the candidates appears.

While Alvear is thought likely to carry the capital through the popular vote, it must not be forgotten that the government ticket, represented by Drs. Ortiz and Castillo, will poll a large vote here. This is due in part to the large number of government employees who know on which side their bread is buttered, and also to the support of business in general which has found the achievements of the Justo administration to its liking, especially on the financial side.

During the Justo regime, due to a great extent to the heavy increase in exports of raw materials, especially grain and other agricultural products to the United States, and also to the control of exchange which gave the government much needed foreign currencies, the government has decreased its foreign debt in great strides both in the London and New York market. Only two days ago (July 27th) it was announced in New York that the proposed issue of \$13,500,000 refunding loan had been abandoned in favor of an internal loan in pesos which will redeem the whole outstanding dollar indebtedness amounting to \$11,737,000. Part of this will be redeemed on September 1, next, and the remainder on December 1st, and thus the city of Buenos Aires will have only outstanding foreign indebtedness in London. Although this last is a municipal transaction, it is the Federal Government which makes foreign currencies available to carry it out. Dr. Ortiz has been secretary of finance during the period in which Argentina has done so much to reduce its foreign debt, and the business community feels he will continue such a policy if elected president.

There is, however, talk during the past few days of a combine between Radical Alvear and Socialist Repetto which may put a slightly different face on the result, but will not, probably be able to stop the Ortiz and Government victory.

SOURCE: Press, personal contacts.

Original & 5 copies mailed July 31st.

Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attache.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5628.

July 29, 1937.

6-1 26 57-L-89
OFFICE CHIEF & STAFF
MIL., INTEL. DIV.

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
IN SERVICE JOURNALS.

AUG 26 1937
21
WAR DEPARTMENT
3610-a

G-2 Report.

2657-L-89/18
ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Pre-election activities;
Socialist Party Candidate.

Ref: No. 5621, July 20.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. AUG 24 1937

DR. NICOLÁS REPETTO



The third important candidate for the presidency of Argentina, Dr. Nicolás Repetto of the Socialist Party, in the elections of September 5, 1937, started his electioneering campaign when he left for the provinces on July 23rd. He is a physician and statesman; was born in the city of Buenos Aires October 21, 1871, educated in Buenos Aires and later studied medicine in France, Switzerland and Germany. He joined the Socialist Party in 1902, and has been a member of the Chamber of Deputies since 1913. His term expires in 1940.

Dr. Repetto is a redoubtable parliamentary debater as well as being a fluent and effective writer. He was a founding member and president for several terms of the co-operative supply and building society "El Hogar Obrero" and has written several volumes on surgery as well as labor and socialist subjects.

He is held in high personal esteem even by his political adversaries.

Source: Public press.

Original & 5 copies mailed July 31st.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5625.

July 28, 1937.

~~RESTRICTED~~

G-2 Report.

3610-a.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Pre-election Activities.

Ref: Report No. 5631, Aug. 10th.

Expectation of fraud in the election returns of the presidential contest next Sunday, September 5th, is the dominant note of all press comment at the present time. The candidates of the three parties have been busily engaged in electioneering through the provinces during the past two weeks and all close their campaigns here in Buenos Aires on Friday, two days before the election. In spite of prophesies to the contrary of provincial disturbances at meetings of the Alvear or Repetto parties there has been reported only one interference - that at a town in the province of Buenos Aires where police dispersed a crowd at the railway station which was waiting to greet Candidate Alvear.

Fear of either stuffing ballot boxes or their switch between the closing of the polls and the counting of the ballots seems to be real in the ranks of the opposition party - which means the Alvear-Mosca ticket - and a petition has been presented to the Minister of Interior requesting that members of the Radical party be allowed to keep a strict watch over the boxes until they are opened for the count.

It was reported in the press on August 27th that Dr. Bonastre, once Federal interventor in Tucumán province, had made a trip there at the behest of President Justo to offer Governor Campero, head of the Concurrencista party, the vice-presidency of the Republic should the Coalition ticket - Ortiz-Castillo - win; this would be accomplished by substituting the name of Campero for that of Castillo when the electoral college met. It is reported the offer was declined.

La Prensa takes a pessimistic view of the coming elections and politics in general in an editorial this morning. It points out that from 1860 until 1910 there were "few elections worthy of the name" and that governments in power "imposed their successors and the adversaries conspired to obtain by revolution the changes to which it was illusory to aspire through lawful means." It then lauds the secret ballot of the Sáenz Peña regime but prophesies that the present government will follow the footsteps of long-ago rulers and impose its choice on the electors of the country; in other words, the Ortiz-Castillo ticket.

With less than a week to election there still appears to be considerable apathy; the business community is generally for the government ticket due to the stability of the present regime and the improved economic condition of the country both at home and abroad.

Source: Local press.

Original & 5 copies airmailed
Sept. 3rd.

Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5637. August 30, 1937.

G-2 Report.

RESTRICTED

2-1 18 1937
2657-L 29
23
3610-b

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Election Results.

Ref: Report No. 5637(3610-a) Aug.30th.

Just thirty days after the presidential elections were held, on Sunday September 5th, the final results were made public on the morning of October 5th. As was generally expected, the Ortiz-Castillo ticket, known as the "Concordancia" and backed by the present regime, was the winner receiving 248 electoral votes to 128 for the Radical ticket headed by ex-President Alvear and Sr. Mosca.

The great difference in the number of electoral votes in the result does not, however, tell the complete story. This is on account of the fact that under the Argentine system the party that carries a province receives all the electoral votes of that province, there is no minority representation in the electoral college. As a matter of fact, of the 1,962,277 total votes the Concordancia received 1,097,864 while the Radicals polled 813,688 votes. The Socialist ticket - Repetto-Orgaz - was a poor third with only 50,725 votes throughout the country. Thus it will be seen that, although the Concordancia gained a large majority in the electoral college, the difference between the Concordancia and the Radicals in popular vote was only 278,920 votes. (No two newspaper reports published this morning agree exactly on the total vote by parties but the differences are only a few thousand and immaterial).

Alvear followers carried only four provinces, including the important Federal District with its 68 electoral votes. The others were Córdoba, 34 votes, La Rioja, 8, and Tucuman, 18. The other eleven went to the Ortiz ticket, which carried the province of Buenos Aires by more than three to one and so secured the 88 electoral college votes. The Socialist ticket did not carry a single province, and was not expected to do so by political observers. In the Federal District in which the city of Buenos Aires is situated Alvear won by 2 1/2 to 1, the popular figures being 256,607 to 110,225.

It now remains for the electors to meet in each provincial capital and cast their votes for president and vice president. As this act must be accomplished at least four months before the end of the present presidential term the final choice must be made not later than October 20th. With the large majority that the Ortiz-Castillo ticket has secured in the popular vote there remains but little doubt of the result of the electoral college, but there may be considerable shifts there, especially in regard to the vice-presidential choice.

In nineteen electoral districts there was a second balloting, principally in Santa Fé province, where many boxes were found to contain more envelopes than the registered number of voters in the district. Hence second elections were

G-2 Report.

3610-b

held in these districts two weeks later, September 19th. In the election procedure in Argentina the ballot boxes are collected by the Post Office Department and delivered to the legislative assembly chamber in the provincial capital - to the national senate chamber in Buenos Aires city. There the first work is to verify the number of envelopes which contain the votes by the number of registered electors. If there are no more envelopes than the register shows voters then the boxes are passed. The second operation is to open the sealed envelopes and count the votes.

The results by districts:

Districts	Ortiz-Castillo	Alvear-Mosca	Electors
: Capital Federal	: 110,225	: 256,607	: 68° :
: Buenos Aires	: 394,478	: 115,558	: 88 :
: Catamarca	: 12,153	: 6,847	: 8 :
: Córdoba	: 97,764	: 121,816	: 34° :
: Corrientes	: 50,340	: 27,749	: 18 :
: Entre Rios	: 66,138	: 60,348	: 22 :
: Jujuy	: 14,260	: (Abstained)	: 8 :
: La Rioja	: 7,808	: 8,607	: 8° :
: Mendoza	: 36,199	: 32,626	: 16 :
: Salta	: 28,549	: 3,364	: 10 :
: San Juan	: 18,967	: 11,388	: 10 :
: San Luis	: 16,414	: 12,562	: 10 :
: Santa Fé	: 167,870	: 77,183	: 42 :
: Santiago del Estero	: 39,642	: 28,367	: 16 :
: Tucumán	: 37,048	: 50,666	: 18° :

Four districts marked (°) carried by Radicals.

There were the usual charges of fraud by both sides but especially by the Radicals who refrained from voting in Jujuy on the ground that their votes would not be counted anyway. The same thing occurred in the run-off elections in some of the nineteen districts where Radicals refused to participate in the second balloting.

The few days just prior to the elections there was considerable political excitement in various parts of the country, especially in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fé and several killings were reported. As soon as the ballots were cast, however, all excitement died down and there was little seeming interest in the slow publication of the totals from day to day. It is the general opinion that the Ortiz regime for the next presidential term will carry on the economic policies of President Justo. These have the approval especially of the business community, Argentine and foreign.

Source: Daily press.

Original & 1 copy airmailed October 8th.
Four copies by steamer October 9th.

LESTER BAKER, COL., INF.
MILITARY ATTACHE

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 5644.

October 5, 1937.

G-2 Report.

2-1 2657-L 89
24/3610-a

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Pre-election Activities.

With the presidential elections now out of the way with the virtual choice of Dr. Ortiz as the next chief executive of Argentina political thought has already turned to the Congressional elections to be held in March. In Argentina the presidential and congressional elections do not coincide as they do in presidential years in the United States.

There is always a chance that the electoral colleges which meet in the capitals of each province will change the popular will, especially in years of close elections, but in the present instance with Dr. Ortiz securing 248 of the 376 votes in the electoral college whatever shifts there may be are not believed important enough to change the result. Such shifts are possible because the electors are not bound by the law to vote for the candidates of the party they represent. Under the previous electoral law, two-thirds of the seats in each college went to the party obtaining the largest number of votes and the remaining third to the party standing second in the balloting; this was changed in 1935 by having the majority party alone represented.

One-half the membership of the Lower House in Congress will be chosen in the coming March elections. In view of the fact that out of the total vote of the September presidential contest Ortiz had a lead over Alvear of less than 300,000 votes in a total of nearly 2,000,000, political speculation is now concerning itself with the question as to whether Ortiz will have a working majority in the Lower House. He may be in the position of President Irigoyen in the last years of his term with an opposition House; the Senate will be secure for the Government.

The total membership of the Chamber of Deputies is 158. At present the Coalition - Government group - and the Opposition can ~~at present~~ count on 75 votes each as certain, but at least 80 deputies are necessary for a quorum. In March 79 deputies will be elected to replace the members whose terms have expired; these include 45 seats belonging to the Coalition, 31 to the Opposition, 2 doubtful, and one vacant seat. The number of Government deputies leaving the Chamber will be seen to be considerably larger than those of the Opposition. Of the Deputies who retain their seats, 30 belong to the Government forces and 45 to the Opposition.

From now until March of next year the efforts of the two major parties will be concentrated upon winning control of the Lower House; political observers see a close division with no overwhelming majority for Government forces.

Source: Buenos Aires Press;
Personal contacts.

Original & 1 copy airmailed October 8th.
Four copies steamer October 9th.

LESTER BAKER COLLIER,
MILITARY ATTACHE

G-2 Report.

3610-b.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Election Results.

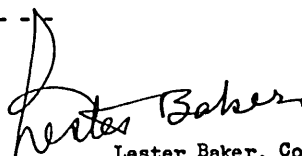
Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz and Dr. Ramon S. Castillo as a result of the meetings of the members of the electoral colleges in each provincial capital and in the national capital on October 20th were elected, respectively, president and vice-president of Argentina for the ensuing six-year term which commences on February 20, 1938. The vote in the electoral colleges was 245 for Ortiz-Castillo - the Concordancia candidates - and 127 for Alvear-Mosca. The leaders lost three votes and the runners-up one through death and illness between the elections of September 5th and the counting of the votes at the electoral colleges.

The only intervening step before inauguration is the certificate by the joint meeting of the two chambers of the National Legislature of the results of the electoral colleges. This meeting must take place on or before December 20th. There is some political talk of the Radicals - Alvear-Mosca followers - abstaining from this joint meeting together with other Opposition elements. If such a step is carried out it would create a delicate political situation as it is generally held that two-thirds of the membership of the two houses must be present at this session. Editorial opinion in the press condemns the Opposition for even suggesting such a maneuver.

COMMENT:

The business community generally is satisfied with the election of the Ortiz-Castillo ticket which is pledged to carry on the policies of President Justo which have brought a wave of prosperity to the country in the past few years; of course much of this prosperity came from raw material exports - beef and grain - to the United States because of shortages in that country. President-elect Ortiz was finance minister in the Justo cabinet until he resigned to become a presidential candidate and it was under his direction that Argentina through paying off its external debts in London and New York by means of internal loans secured its present enviable economic and financial position which is much above that of other South American countries at present.

Source: Daily press;
Personal contacts.



Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 4 copies airmailed Oct. 22nd.
Confirmation copy steamer Oct. 23rd.

GO 211
17 SEP 1938
5-1 2657-L-89
MAR 15 1938
INTEL. DIV.
26
DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report.

3,100

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Presidential Inauguration.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. MAR 10 1938

On Sunday, February 20, 1938, Dr. Roberto M. Ortiz and Dr. Ramón S. Castillo were inaugurated President and Vice President of the Argentine Republic at one of the most brilliant of such ceremonies ever held in this country. Their term is for six years.

After taking the oath of office in the Chamber of Deputies before an assemblage of 1,500 people, both officials rode down Avenida de Mayo escorted by Grenadier Guardsmen through lines of troops and dense crowds to the Casa Rosada where they were received by the out-going President, Vice President, and Cabinet. The transfer of authority was effected when President Justo turned over the insignia of his office to President Ortiz.

The new President and his Cabinet then reviewed the parade of 7,000 officers and men of the army and navy from the balcony of Government House, while Argentine Army and Navy planes headed by the six U.S. Flying Fortresses flew overhead.

Remarks:

The record-breaking flight of the American Army planes from Miami to Buenos Aires received considerable favorable comment from the Argentine press and public, and their flight contributed materially to furthering the goodwill policy of the U.S. Government towards South America, and especially Argentina.

Source: Personal observation.

Lester Baker

Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 4 copies airmailed Mar. 2nd.
Confirmation copy by steamer Mar. 5th.

115 3/11

NO OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION
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APR 31 1938

APR 31 1938
2657-L-89
27
3,610-b.

G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: National Elections;
Election Results.

RECEIVED W/2 W. M. APR 20 1938

Final results of the national elections for members of the legislature held on March 27, 1938, were made public on April 11th and show that President Ortiz is assured a favorable majority in the Chamber of Deputies where the coalition won 52 out of the 81 seats at stake. As the Government already has an overwhelming majority in the Senate, it will be in a position to carry out its legislative plans without any assistance from the more or less independent members who have held the balance of power in recent years.

Press reports tell of the resort to trickery ranging from barefaced frauds perpetrated in certain districts, to the division of the Government votes in such a manner as to secure both majority and minority seats, as occurred in Salta, Corrientes and San Juan provinces, through which the Coalition success was obtained and an absolute majority secured in the Chamber.

The composition of the old Chamber was as follows, 80 votes being required for a quorum(majority):

Government	75
Opposition	74
Doubtful	8
Vacancy	<u>1</u>
	158

The new composition of the Chamber will be:

Coalition(Government)	
National Democrats	56
Anti-Personalists	23
Frente Nacional	2
Centros Ortiz	<u>1</u>
	82
Opposition	
Radicals	63
Socialists	<u>5</u>
	68
Independents	
Concurrencistas	5
Sr. Guglielmelli	1
Corrientes Liberal	<u>1</u>
	7

The Radicals lost one seat by death following the election.

Source: Official.

Original & 4 copies airmailed App.13th.
Confirmation copy by steamer Apr.16th.

Lester Baker
Lester Baker, Col. Inf.,
Military Attaché.

G-2 Report.

6 1 2657-L-89
28
3,400-a.

ARGENTINA - Political.

Subject: Local Governments; Relationship to Central Government;
Federal Intervention.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. APR 1 1940

Intervention by the Federal Government in the Province of Buenos Aires, which was decreed by President Ortiz on March 7th, has met with the entire approval of the responsible press, and from all shades of political opinion of an important character.

When intervention was first rumored, as a result of the frauds in the provincial elections of February 25th and which were reported to the Ministry of Interior by scores of telegrams from Radical Party leaders, there was talk that the Ministers of War and Marine, both high-ranking officers in the two services, had told the President they would resign in case intervention was decreed. This was thought, in some circles, to mean that the army and navy would oppose the President, and that there might be serious danger to the present regime.

However, nothing untoward happened as far as the army and navy were concerned. These two ministers signed the intervention decree and stuck to their posts. The two who did not sign were the Ministers of Agriculture and of Public Works, giving party loyalty as their reason and handing in their resignations.

To fill the two vacant portfolios, President Ortiz appointed Dr. Cosme M. Ezcurra, who has been for two consecutive periods president of the Argentine Rural Society, as Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Luis A. Barberis, who has been secretary to the President, as Minister of Public Works. Both these appointments have met with no opposition in press comments or from responsible political leaders.

President Ortiz in his message to Congress in May 1939 referred to the prevalence of fraud in provincial elections in this country, and he assured the Congress that he would make full use of his powers to ensure the eradication of this evil wherever it should be found, and reestablish the inviolability of suffrage wherever the institution should be threatened.

As a result of this promise by the President, he has already sent interventors into the provinces of Santiago del Estero (where elections have since been held and the government is back in the hands of duly elected officials), San Juan and Catamarca. These are smaller and remote provinces, and not much attention was paid to intervention there by political circles of the Federal Capital. The province of Buenos Aires, however, was a wholly different story. This is the richest and most populous province - 860,000 electors - with 110 towns and cities on the doorstep of the Federal Capital and with great political influence in National affairs. The governorship of Buenos Aires is a good jumping-off place for the presidency, so everyone waited to see if President Ortiz would carry through his intervention.

He did not hesitate when it was proven to him that the February 25th provincial elections were a farce as far as Opposition voting was concerned - the Frasco machine had taken care that there was no opposition. He

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6203.

March 19, 1940.

G-2 Report.

3,400-a.

named Major General Luis A. Cassinelli(G-2 Report 5965, I.G. 6200-d, March 14, 1939) commander of the 1st Army with headquarters at La Plata, capital of the Province of Buenos Aires, as temporary interventor. The people of the province welcomed intervention with enthusiasm. They had become fed up with Fresco(governor) extravagance and suppression of the political rights of the individual. The Fresco regime had placed the province head over heels in debt and failed to pay its bills - the Southern Railway recently refused to accept any more freight or to issue tickets on provincial government account except for cash in advance, owing th the large sums due it for services over a period of several years.

Within a week of General Cassinelli's taking over, the President named as permanent interventor Dr. Octavio R. Amadeo, Argentine Ambassador to Brazil who was home on leave. In his broadcast to the people of the Province when he took over the government, Dr. Amadeo made a pertinent statement: "The purpose of this intervention", he said, "is not to destroy political parties, nor to create them. They shall remain, and it is to be hoped that the best men in their ranks will represent them in the administration of the affairs of the Province."

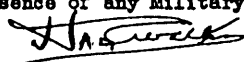
As a result of the firm attitude taken by President Ortiz in respect to Buenos Aires, elections the following week in other provinces - especially those in Cordoba, Mendoza, Entre Rios and Tucuman were reported to have been fairly honest. In Corrientes and Salta, however, intervention is expected due to the "irregularities" there.

Unlike intervention in some other South American countries, where it has a habit of remaining permanent, the Ortiz method is to have the Federal government administer provincial affairs following declared frauds for a short period only, until new elections can be held. These elections are under the supervision of Federal authorities who prevent strong-arm police methods of depriving any legal voter of his right to cast his secret ballot through intimidation, or worse.

President Ortiz finished two years of his six-year term on February 20, 1940, and is more popular with the electorate than ever.

Source: Press;
Personal contacts.

In the absence of any Military Attaché on Duty:


H. E. Walker
Clerk in Charge.

Original & 5 copies airmailed Mar. 19th.

Classification

Enclosures
26 4-L-89
Record Section File No.
Copy No. 6-1
For Record Section Only

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT Argentina
Country Reported On

Subject Fraudulent Provincial Elections I.G. No. 3400

Source and Degree of Reliability:
As stated.

Summarization of Report
Where Required

In Comments on Current Events Enter Item Headings Here

Provincial election frauds in Santa Fé followed only a comparatively few days later by others in Mendoza have created a degree of unrest among the people and a muddled political situation generally which political leaders believe calls for action by the central government, especially as the financial and economic prospects for Argentina are far from bright. There were demands in the Chamber of Deputies for Federal intervention in Santa Fé even before the Mendoza scandal this month, and the latter caused redoubled demands for the Executive to intervene in both provinces until such time as "honest" elections might be held. There are at present Federal interventors in three provinces: Buenos Aires, Catamarca and San Juan. On January 15th the Minister of Interior announced that elections in these three provinces would be held during the coming month of May.

In the Santa Fé elections several people were wounded and a retired general of the Argentine army was killed during a dispute at one polling place when the count was to be started after the polls had closed. Practically the entire press of the country, as well as the leaders of various political parties, condemned the Santa Fé affair for its fraudulent character. Quick demands were made in Congress for intervention in the province but up to the present no action has been taken. The Minister of Interior in reply to questions by deputies told the Chamber that no proof had been brought forth of fraud, and Acting President Castillo stated it was up to Congress to instruct the Executive if it decides the elections should be annulled and an interventor appointed.

Mendoza presented an even more audacious picture of fraud, according to press reports from that province, for the reason that the secret ballot was a myth and voters were made to vote in the open. The charge was made that "matones de alquiler", for which the nearest English equivalent is "hired thugs or killers", were brought in from outside to intimidate voters and election disturbances resulted in several persons being wounded. This same sort of defiance of the law of the secret

G-2 Distribution: 4, 5, 6
Copy No. 1, R/S; 2, L/C; 3, Section File

From M. A. Argentina Report No. 6478 Date January 16, 1941
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G-2 Report.

3400.

ballot in the province of Buenos Aires caused President Ortiz on March 7, 1939, to cancel the elections and appoint a Federal interventor.

This use of hired thugs for intimidation purposes in Mendoza is pointed out by a former president of the supreme court in Spain who is now living in Argentina as a possible Nazi or Fascist move to create internal dissension and unrest such as happened in his own country.

With the increasing demand in Congress for intervention in the two provinces, and in view of the precarious financial and economic future of Argentina due to its loss of European markets through the war, Dr. Federico Pinedo, Finance Minister, on January 9th flew to Mar del Plata - only 400 kilometers from the Federal Capital- to consult with former president Marcelo T. Alvear who is head of the Radical Party (Union Civica Radical) and seek a political truce whereby the strong radical group would throw its weight on the side of the Government instead of being in opposition. It was stated in the press that the reward offered for this cooperation of the radicals was quick intervention in Santa Fé and Mendoza, which the radicals have been demanding since the elections.

The Pinedo move proved fruitless as the radicals refused to cooperate under the conditions stipulated. They sent a delegation to talk with President Ortiz whom they informed that they would cooperate provided the Government policy was guided by the democratic ideals expressed and enforced by Dr. Ortiz as chief executive. A significant point in this interview was the statement by Dr. Ortiz that he had by no means "deserted from the presidency of the republic", which was taken by the press to mean that if health permits he will again take up the reins of power.

When the Pinedo gesture failed of results the Minister of Finance presented his resignation to Acting President Castillo late on the evening of January 14th. In his letter withdrawing from the Cabinet, Dr. Pinedo declared that he had either started his "truce" campaign at the wrong time or had chosen the wrong procedure, and that the big political parties, including his own friends, had considered the gesture a mistake. January 15th Dr. Castillo issued a decree refusing to accept the resignation, something never before done in Argentine history, but Dr. Pinedo refused to reconsider. At the time of his talk with Dr. Alvear he said he was acting on his own responsibility but politicians expressed the opinion that his move must have been approved by other Ministers and the acting president.

It is rumored in the press that other ministerial resignations may be looked for, the names of Dr. Roca, Foreign Affairs, Amadeo y Videla, Agriculture, and Culaciati, Interior, being mentioned. The present Cabinet was chosen by Dr. Castillo with no help or hindrance from Dr. Ortiz so the latter when he is in physical shape to take up office again will be able to pick his own official family.

In the absence of the Military Attaché.

H.E. Walker,
Clerk in Charge.

All copies airmailed Jan. 17th.

G-2 Report.

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ARGENTINA - Political.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. MAY 6 1940

Subject: National Elections;
Congressional Election Results.

The Argentine Senate is composed of 30 members each chosen for nine years, and one-third of the members are elected every three years.

The Argentine Chamber of Deputies numbers 158 members and one-half of its membership is elected every two years for a four-year term.

Elections in the provinces of Argentina (corresponding to states in the United States) for members of the national Chamber of Deputies coincide with the provincial elections for governor and state legislators. During February and March such elections were held to fill the seats of one-half the membership of the Chamber, and three vacancies caused by deaths, or a total of 82 seats.

In recent weeks such elections were held in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Tucuman, Mendoza, Santa Fé, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Salta, Jujuy, and in the Federal Capital to fill the 82 vacant seats in the Lower House. These elections were held on various dates, the last one being that in the Federal Capital on March 31, 1940.

It takes time to get the election results in Argentina and it was only on April 22nd with the validating by the Electoral College in the Federal Capital of the results of the March 31st elections that the composition of the Chamber of Deputies became officially known.

The Radical Party (Unión Cívico Radical) which was thrown out of power by the 1930 Revolution which retired President Irigoyen to private life, as a result of the elections just held will have nearly a quorum in the Chamber when Congress opens on May 1st. If the Concurrencista Radicals - an offshoot of the Radical Party - elected in the Province of Tucuman join with the Radicals then the Opposition will have control of the Lower House in the coming session.

In the elections just held to fill the 82 seats the Radicals secured 50, the National Democrats 17, Anti-Personalists 8, Concurrencista Radicals 2, and the Socialists 5. This leaves the composition of Chamber with the Opposition made up of: Radicals 76, Concurrencistas 4, and Socialists 5; the Government, or "Concordancia", numbers: National Democrats 49 and Anti-Personalists 24. While the Radicals now have the largest number of seats in the coming Chamber, they can not control with a majority unless they have the help of another group, the most likely of which is the Concurrencistas with four seats. There is, however, a chance, according to political gossip, that the Radicals and the Anti-Personalists may join forces in legislating which would give the combination a total of 100 seats and so make it an exceedingly powerful political group.

The Radicals won in the recent elections in Buenos Aires, which was formerly wholly Conservative, securing 12 out of the total of 18 seats in the province, the largest provincial representation in the country and exceeded only by that of the Federal Capital which has 20 deputies. The success of the Radicals in Buenos Aires is directly due to

From M/A Argentina.

Report No. 6223.

April 24, 1940.

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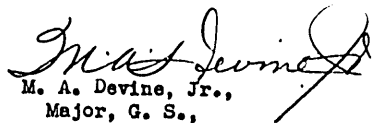
President Ortiz sending an interventor to take charge in that province just prior to the national elections. (Ref. G-2 Rep't. No. 6203, I.G. 3400-a, Mar. 19, 1940). The President's own party lost the majority of seats to the Radical opposition. The Radicals also won in Tucuman, Mendoza, Santa Fé, Entre Rios, and Jujuy. Of these, Mendoza and Jujuy were not carried by the Radicals in the elections two years ago. They lost in Corrientes and Salta.

The Radical Party in Argentina, it should be understood, is not red or even pink as its name would imply in the United States. In fact the Radicals are quite conservative, and have the backing of the Catholic Church. The party is recognized as the official political voice of the Church as was demonstrated a few years ago when it was Radical votes in Congress which defeated the proposed divorce bill, a measure naturally violently opposed by the Church.

The lineup of the new Chamber as compared with that of two years ago is:

	1938	1940
Government	75	73
Opposition	74	85
Doubtful	8	
Vacancy	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	158	158

Source: Press;
Personal contacts.


M. A. Devine, Jr.,
Major, G. S.,
Military Attaché.

Original & 5 copies airmailed Apr. 27th.